Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-148
Wednesday
1 August 1990

Daily Report
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Islamic Affairs

Reportage on ICO Foreign Ministers Meeting

Velayati Not To Attend Conference

NC2807155890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Munir Zahran, director of the organizations department at the Foreign Ministry, has stated that the foreign ministers of all Islamic countries, with the exception of Indonesia and Iran, will participate in the Islamic ministerial conference due to open in Cairo this Tuesday.

He explained that the Indonesian foreign minister will not attend because he is engaged in the ASEAN meetings. Therefore, he said, the Indonesian minister of religious affairs will lead his country's delegation to the Islamic ministerial conference.

He stated that, because Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has other engagements, Hojjat-ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, director of international relations at the Islamic Revolution Command Bureau, will lead the Iranian delegation to the conference meetings.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives

NC2907185790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1822 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Cairo this evening to attend the conference of foreign ministers of Islamic states, which begins on Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Al-Huss Arrives

NC3007181790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon to attend the Islamic foreign ministers conference which will begin tomorrow, Tuesday.

On his arrival at the airport, Dr. al-Huss stated that he will submit a working paper to the conference in which he will expound current developments in the Lebanese issue and issues of concern to the Islamic world.

Asked whether he will propose a discussion of Israel's theft of Lebanese water, al-Huss said that studies are being made with regard to this issue. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegation Arrives

NC3107060390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2223 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, the foreign minister of the state of Palestine arrived in Cairo this evening on a few days' visit to Egypt. He will attend the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meetings, due to begin in Cairo tomorrow.

Qaddumi said in an arrival statement that the Palestinian delegation will raise one basic issue at the ICO meetings—Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. He noted that serious action must be taken to stop this immigration which threatens peace in the Middle East area. Qaddumi said that the conference must discuss the necessary steps to implement the resolutions passed by the Jerusalem Committee in Morocco concerning this immigration.

He added that during his visit to Cairo, he will meet with President Husni Mubarak and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, because it is necessary to brief Egypt on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue.

Regarding the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, Qaddumi said that this dialogue was being conducting within a narrow framework. Washington avoided discussing essential issues. He expressed the hope that the United States will recognize the Palestinian people's right to self- determination and the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Qaddumi explained that dialogue between Palestine and a big power must continue, noting that the United States conducted a dialogue with China for 20 years before it finally recognized it.

Qaddumi was welcomed on arrival by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'id Kamal, the ambassador of Palestine in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo.

Conference Begins

BK3107160890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] The five-day conference of Islamic foreign ministers began in Cairo today and will discuss issues facing the Islamic world. The agenda of the conference comprises 68 issues, including the Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Palestine problems, and the Arab-Israeli dispute. Inaugurating the conference, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak urged the Islamic countries to settle their differences peacefully to their mutual benefit and to respect all people's right to live in peace and security.

A Pakistani delegation led by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is representing Pakistan at the session. The delegation also includes Iqbal Akhund, the prime minister's adviser on national security.

Meanwhile, several representatives of a number of freedom movements of Kashmir have arrived in Cairo to try to attend the conference as observers. They include the Kashmir Liberation Movement, the American Kashmir Council, and Hizbul Mujahidin.

Mubarak Addresses Foreign Ministers

NC3107100190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0703 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Speech by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at the inauguration of the 19th Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers meeting, at the Cairo international conference center in Nasr City on 31 July—live]

[Text] In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate. And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God [stretches out for you], and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude God's favor on you, for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace ye became brethren. And ye were on the brink of the Pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus doth God make His signs clear to you that ye may be guided. In truth has the Almighty spoken. [Koranic verse]

Brother foreign ministers of the fraternal Muslim states, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me pleasure to express to you my heartfelt congratulations on the convocation of your conference in the city of the honorable al-Azhar, the gem of Muslim culture and the capital of the thousand minarets, whose people take pride in belonging with you to the one Islamic family, enhancing the fine values and sublime principles of Islam and being committed to its noble principles which are built on tolerance and equality, reject fanatism and discrimination, enhance the concept of the Islamic message's internationality, and treat people everywhere as brothers.

I would like to seize this opportunity to express our gratitude for the great efforts made by the Kuwaiti amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, during his chairmanship of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], for his keenness to consolidate the spirit of Muslim brotherlihood among all fraternal Muslim states, and for his constant following-up on all the developments which affect our united march.

Your conference is being held 20 years after ICO was established. Since then, the Muslim community has witnessed interesting and fundamental changes which must attract our attention so that we can study them objectively and analyze them scientifically. The aim of this is to learn precisely about the nature and the extent of these changes, draw conclusions about their present and future effects, and enhance our ability to affect them and steer them in the direction which would protect our interests and serve our issues.

The last decade of the 20th century coincides with the second decade of the 15th hegira century. This decade indicates more developments and major basic changes to come which would affect our vision of the future and our determination of the role which we must play together to realize our common goals. At this time, the dangers and the challenges are growing as much as opportunities and possibilities are increasing. This pushes man toward unprecedented horizons of ambition and imagination at moments at which he suffers from fear, frustration, and concern.

We have no doubt that the method by which we can serve our interests in this critical stage in the history of mankind must be based on both our individual and collective participation in guiding these fundamental changes in the international system of the political, economic, and intellectual fields so that we can become active participants instead of mere observers, and so that we can become capable of leaving our clear fingerprints on the image of the world in the coming stage and capable of drawing a specific course for our action vis-a-vis the growing dangers and the renewed challenges.

Perhaps a thorough look at the existing conditions in the Islamic world and a comparison between them and what is happening in political and civlized areas elsewhere would prompt us to base our thinking and activity on one fundamental fact whose importance cannot be underestimated—that Islamic solidarity must serve as the cornerstone in all our actions and responsibilities. This is because the challenges facing us are beyond our individual capabilities, regardless of their magnitude, and are too hard to tackle with scattered and uncoordinated efforts and attempts, no matter how diverse and intensive they may be. In this age, Islamic solidarity is no longer a luxury that we seek to add to our strength, but is instead an indispensable, inevitable, and incontestable necessity. It is not a mere slogan or word that we repeat but is an integrated and comprehensive concept whose roots go back to the very concept of the Islamic nation, whose foundations were laid by our noble prophet, may God's peace be upon him, in the form of the traditions and practices he enacted and which our former and contemporary thinkers, 'ulema, and leaders helped crystalize, develop, and define.

Solidarity within our big family rests on acknowledging the unity of interests and destiny among all the Islamic peoples who, without exception, belong to the Third World domain. This domain is marked by certain characteristics, foremost among which is the fact that all the countries in this category are passing through a stage of development. They all share the difficulties of trying to meet their requirements for food and of trying to modernize their production and industry, to absorb advanced technology, and to live up to the increasing expectations of their youth.

The first prerequisite for this concept of solidarity among us is to reach a consensus of views on the goals of our nation, both at present and in the future and in the short and long terms, as well as an acceptable definition of the dangers and challenges that confront us in the 15th hegira century. By so doing, we could reach a common understanding of the priorities and aspirations that we seek to achieve and to serve through collective and integrated action.

Branching off from the principle of Islamic solidarity is a basic and fundamental commitment to which we must accord due attention and consideration in all our daily dealings with each other. This commitment is to settle any disputes that may arise among the organization's member states amicably, in line with common interests and goals, and to rally around the sublime Islamic concept of fraternity among all believers both in good and bad times, without any substantial contradiction, animosity, or hatred.

From this perspective, brothers and sisters, we believe that the ICO is qualified to play a greater role in settling the disputes that arise among member states through peaceful and amicable means and away from the methods of conflict and hostility which completely contradict the principle of belonging to one family and of faithfulness to holy teachings and common spiritual values. Let us consecrate this conference to deepening the elements of interaction among our peoples and to achieving cohesion among our interests in all domains. We cannot build our stronghold as one family on the basis of incongruous interests or severed bonds.

It is inconceivable that we should lag behind other nations in building bridges of integration among their interests and in achieving creative interaction among their systems of production and distribution and facilitating movement of people and commodities among them. Unity has been achieved among countries whose past was permeated by hostilities and hatred and fragmented by continued wars and bitter conflicts. Let all this be associated with a wise movement to revive Islamic culture. We are in dire need of this culture at a time when Islam is being subjected to unjust attacks and slanders from the outside world and oppressive and misleading trends from within. Both trends are in agreement in distorting the image of Islam and in interpreting it according to their whims and purposes. This contradicts its substance as it was revealed to the honest prophet and as God Almighty wanted it to be: a religion of rationality and logic; a religion of tolerance and brotherhood; an international creed that views people as brothers regardless of race, color, or religion; and a religion that believes human beings are equal in their rights and duties and which upholds the rights of man, who God has chosen as his heir on earth and held in a higher status than all other creatures.

This cultural revival I point to is a necessary element for achieving a renaissance in the Islamic world. A renaissance can only be achieved if the basic concepts that prevail in this or that Islamic society are sound and if blemishes associated with religion through ignorance or an inability to comprehend the treasures of Islamic thoughts are cleared up. The treasures of Islamic thought filled all corners of the world with light and compassion and opened new horizons for the human mind. This renaissance can only be completed if Islamic society decisively settles the fabricated conflict between originality and modernism and between the old and the new, because both these issues constitute an indivisible part of the movement of history. This movement will constantly move forward. It relies on opening the way for continuous renewal and creativity and rejects stagnation, isolation, and paralysis.

The stage we are passing through during this decade replete with events, developments, and increasing challenges makes us duty bound to make our movement capable of imposing itself on the center of events and to keep it from the margin of changes or from isolating itself from history. It must step forward firmly and with confident minds ready to interact with others by giving and taking and by establishing ties with other international forces from a premise of cooperation and friendliness. We do not view the outside world as a hostile one, nor do we seek to create tension or contradictions in our relations with others. Our path is to establish relations based on good neighborliness and cooperation with other nations and peoples and to settle differences with them through peaceful means away from the language of war and threats. Based on this, we will act with all our might to settle problems and differences with other countries peacefully. We set no conditions for achieving this goal other than a respect for rights, an obligation to duty, and a resort to the rules of justice and legality, because an unfair settlement will not survive or be stable but will instead be undermined by events.

Brothers: The Islamic issues are just and legitimate. We will not attack anyone nor ask for anything that is not our right. We refuse to interfere in others' affairs. We seek to establish peace and to stop bloodshed, to eliminate violence and tension, and to stand firmly against racism and segregation among peoples. We apply these principles in all issues and in confronting all parties, primarily, the Palestinian issue. This issue was the first to which the ICO committed itself on the first day it was established. The ICO devoted a great part of its activities to uphold this issue, demanding that the Arab and Islamic legal and historical rights in Jerusalem be respected and refusing any infringement on its identity and status.

We Muslims advocate reconciliation and peace. We reject aggression, regardless of its source and justifications. We respect all people's right to live in safety and peace without encroaching on other people's rights. People's right to live a free and secure life is an equal right which does not differ from one nation to another nor favor a group of people over another. Hence, our course is marked by peace, which the Almighty has established as a foundation for any relation between individuals and groups. Peace means solidarity among all the members of the big Muslim family. This family is facing a test which it must pass in a manner agreeable with its legacy and its great spiritual and cultural heritage and enabling it to cross the bridges of development in a world in which progress is taking unprecedented giant steps unknown to humanity before in history.

May the Almighty honor the nation of Islam, fortify its homeland, join the hearts of Muslims in love, unite their

ranks, and guide their steps. Let us set out for the horizons of the future in cohesion and solidarity in our march along the road of peace, progress, and prosperity. Let us take the lesson and good example from the words of the Almighty and the directives of his prophet. And obey God and His Apostle and fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart; and be patient and persevering, for God is with those who patiently persevere. [Koranic verse]

May the Almighty guide us and you. May God's peace and mercy be on you. [applause]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Troika Delegation, U.S. Dialogue

JN2807143990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (WAKH)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has revealed that Israel has begun preparations for a special conference on the Palestine question to be held in Geneva without PLO participation.

At a news conference in Baghdad today, the Palestinian president said that Israel is attempting, in cooperation with some quarters within the U.S. Administration, to hold an international conference in Geneva without a PLO participation and under the auspices of the two superpowers.

'Arafat, who arrived in Baghdad the day before yesterday on a visit to Iraq indicated that the main objective behind this was to bypass the Baghdad summit resolutions and final statement and to return to a situation without firm stands.

The Palestinian leader stressed that there can be no peace, stability, or security in the region through bypassing the PLO.

'Arafat added that the PLO is the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights, especially their right to repatriation, self-determination, and their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

At his news conference, 'Arafat cited U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement that Israeli attempts to find a substitute for the PLO have failed. He added: "Even Baker admitted that Israel has not managed over the past 23 years to find this substitute."

Yasir 'Arafat reaffirmed that the PLO does not want a return to the dialogue with the United States, which he branded as the dialogue of the deaf because of the way it was conducted in the past. He added that a dialogue different in level and content from the previous one is essential. He stressed the need to upgrade the level of the dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. Administration and to develop it to achieve its objectives.

'Arafat announced that he had submitted a plan to the EC troika ministers on regional peace. However, he declined to provide any details. He only said that the plan is now in the hands of the troika.

The Palestinian leader said the plan tackles what the Palestinian people of the occupied territories are currently facing as well as ending the state terrorism and crimes perpetrated by Israel there. He added that he is awaiting the troika's response to the new Palestinian initiative.

'Arafat said that the troika is attempting to advance the peace process. He added that Europe is playing an active, important, and prominent role in the Middle East.

The Palestinian leader went on to say that the Italian foreign minister briefed him on the talks he had with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

'Arafat warned the Arab nation once again against the new Israeli plan to settle new immigrants and said: "I am sounding the alarm once again to my Arab nation to make it understand the aspects and issues pertaining to this housing scheme, which is related to Jewish emigration."

'Arafat described the measures of expulsion and displacement perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people, particularly in [word indistinct] as the crime of the age.

'Arafat added: What is the world doing to react to what is happening to the remainder of our people there? They [Israelis] are carrying out the "bantustan" conspiracy abandoned by de Klerk in South Africa only to be revived by the Israelis in occupied Palestine.

The Palestinian president said that the popular intifadah has continued in the occupied territories and will continue until the removal of the occupation.

'Arafat noted that all statements made by the occupation authorities on the termination of the intifadah are baseless. If this is the case, 'Arafat argues, why then is enemy war minister Moshe Arens deploying an estimated 60,000-70,000 troops in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, not to mention the security forces and militias, in a bid to control the situation there?

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat stated that the Palestinian people reject any elections under Israeli occupation.

In reply to a question on the offer made by Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens for elections in return for ending the intifadah, 'Arafat said that the objective behind Arens' offer is to fudge the issue and reject all peace initiatives launched by Palestinian, Arab, and international parties, including those formulated by the U.S. Administration.

'Arafat recalled the elections held in 1976 in which 96 PLO-affiliated figures won, and asked: Where are these people now? Some were martyred, others imprisoned, others expelled, and others dismissed. Those remaining in office can be counted on the fingers of one hand. They remained in office to deceive the world.

'Arafat stressed that elections in the occupied territories must be held under UN auspices and in accordance with Palestinian laws, not Israeli, nor British, nor any other laws. He added that the objective of these elections must be specific; that is, to secure the national rights of the Palestinian people, especially the rights to self-determination and to establish a Palestinian state.

'Arafat pointed out that the Palestinian people reject all the offers made by the occupation authorities for self-rule. He added: "Had they desired self-rule, the Palestinian people would have taken the Camp David accords."

'Arafat concluded by saying that the Palestinian people reject categorically, flatly, and irrevocably anything short of full independence for the state of Palestine with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

When asked about the threats voiced two days ago by an Israeli minister to attack Iraq with chemical weapons, 'Arafat said: "This is an attempt to clip Arab wings and give Israel the upper hand."

'Arafat added: In the wake of the Baghdad Arab summit, the time when Israel had the upper hand in the region is now in the past. Right now, there is an Arab upper hand that is equal to the Israeli hand, if not exceeding it.

'Arafat criticized Western silence over the announcement that Israel possesses chemical weapons. He added that the Western media have launched a fierce campaign against Iraq, the PLO, and the Arab nation. However, we find the West keeps silent over the statements made on this subject by the Israeli science minister, 'Arafat said.

'Arafat also condemned the silence of the world public over the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories. He added: "Over the past 32 months, our people have been exposed to attacks with chemical weapons. They have become a testing ground for these weapons." In spite of this, the world has not called for an end to these practicies and ugly crimes.

'Arafat said that the PLO informs the UN Security Council on a daily basis of the crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation, foremost among which are the crimes committed with chemical weapons.

'Arafat Receives Message From Carter

JN3007162690 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 30 Jul 90 p 2

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yasir 'Arafat has declined to answer a question on the date for his visit to Cairo. He said he does not have a scheduled visit to Cairo, and that the person who is scheduled to visit Cairo is the head of the state of Palestine's delegation to the Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers metting, slated to begin there on Tuesday. He pointed out that a Palestinian working paper will be presented to the conference which will deal with Jewish immigration and the intifadah.

The Palestinian president urged the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries to pay full attention to the Palestine question and not to preoccupy themselves with issues distant from the status of Jerusalem or invent. [sentence as published, however, a page 3 report in Kuwait AL-ANBA' and a page 16 report in Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic on 30 July on the same topic, both end the same sentence as follows: "or invent a different issue to divert the Muslims' attention as they have done for many years in the past."]

In a related development, Bassam Abu-Sharif, the Palestinian president's media adviser who accompanied him on his visit to Kuwait, said that 'Arafat yesterday received a message from former U.S. president Carter. The message, he said, was delivered by a special U.S. envoy whose name Abu-Sharif declined to reveal.

Abu-Sharif told KUNA that president 'Arafat gave the envoy a reply message. He explained that Carter's message, which he said was positive, expressed the former U.S. president's deep concern about the serious developments in the Middle East. It also included a serious position on the need to boost the Middle east peace process, he said.

Abu-Sharif said that 'Arafat's reply message to Carter explained the serious threats facing the Middle East and the reason behind these threats. 'Arafat also expressed a serious desire to discuss the appropriate means to deter these threats and boost the peace process in the region.

Well-informed diplomatic sources said that Carter's message will pave the way for the resumption of the suspended U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, especially because the missions carried out by the former U.S. president are not divorced from the U.S. Administration's own desires and inclinations.

Carter has visited the region more than once in the past and carried out political missions falling within the U.S. Administration's official policies.

PLO Ambassador To Vienna on New Tasks, U.S.

AU2807152490 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Armin Wolf report on interview with new PLO ambassador to Vienna, Faysal 'Uwaydah, in Vienna; date not given; 'Uwaydah statements in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] A new PLO ambassador was accredited in Vienna two weeks ago: 51-year-old Faysal 'Uwaydah is now heading the PLO mission in Vienna's eighth district. At the beginning of the week, he was appointed as ambassador by Foreign Minister Alois Mock. About a year and a half ago, Austria granted the right to the PLO representative in Vienna to use the title ambassador despite the fact that the PLO diplomats do not represent an independent state.

Faysal 'Uwaydah is coming from London, and he looks like an Englishman. He does not at all fit into the cliche of the dark-skinned and black-haired fiery Arab. Quite the contrary. Amazingly enough, he looks like the red-haired Labor leader Neil Kinnock. He spent the past years as ambassador to Great Britain, where he headed one of the most important Western PLO missions. He was born in 1939 in Jerusalem, nine years before Israel was founded. In 1967, when Israel occupied the West Bank and the Arab part of his home town, he was studying in the United States. When he returned home, he was arrested and interrogated for three months. Finally he was expelled to Jordan. The angry young man then joined the PLO—Yasir 'Arafat's Al Fatah faction. The PLO was the only way for him to be able to return home soon, as he claims today. He openly admits that he does not know anything about Vienna, his new place of work. He does not speak German either.

[Begin 'Uwaydah recording] I do not know anything about Vienna. I have never had contact with the Viennese at all, with the exception of 1974, when I visited Vienna as a member of a PLO delegation. This is a completely new area for me. So far, I like it. I hope that I will make many friends. [end recording]

He already has one friend in Vienna. 'Uwaydah met former UN secretary general Waldheim twice during his first appointment as PLO representative in India. Next week he will pay a visit to Waldheim to present his credentials.

[Begin 'Uwaydah recording] He is a charming person. I met him with his wife. I like him as a person. His role in the United Nations was very good for us. We, and naturally all Arabs in the whole world, know Waldheim as a person who believed in what he did when he headed the United Nations, and who did the right things. [end recording]

As a matter of fact, Austria was the country where the Middle East process was initiated, 'Uwaydah stated, praising the merits Bruno Kreisky has earned in this connection. Vienna could also play an important role in the future, as the venue for a Middle East peace conference, for example. However, such a conference cannot be expected to take place soon. As recently as a month and a half ago, the United States suspended dialogue with the PLO after an attempted terrorist attack by the Palestinians. 'Uwaydah assessed this in the following way:

[Begin 'Uwaydah recording] The Americans wanted to get out of their own problem in Congress. Mr. Bush did not want to suspend dialogue with the PLO through a law. For this reason, he himself made the decision. Thus, he can resume dialogue if he wants to. However, as a matter of fact, the dialogue did not yield the desired results. It was never a serious dialogue. The United States lied to us from the beginning. They promised us a sincere dialogue at a very high level. When we had met their conditions, they downgraded the dialogue to ambassador level. Nothing has been accomplished so far. [end recording]

According to 'Uwaydah, the collapse of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe that were traditionally friendly toward the PLO has had little effect so far. The new governments continue to support the PLO, he claimed. 'Uwaydah rejected criticism of the very close relationship between PLO leader 'Arafat and the former communist dictators. He defended the brotherly kiss that 'Arafat gave to Ceausescu and Honecker.

[Begin 'Uwaydah recording] Mr. Honecker was a good friend to 'Arafat, and they had a personal relationship with each other. We cannot change overnight simply because people decide that this man was good or evil. Honecker helped us a great deal. His fortune has taken a turn for the worse. However, we do not claim now that we do not want to have anything to do with him any more. Quite the contrary. We will not say that Honecker was evil in order to curry favor with the new regime. He did not do anything bad to us. What Honecker did to the Germans is a German problem, and what he did to us is our problem. For us, Honecker was a sincere and trustworthy man. The same applies to Ceausescu. Both of them provided financial and political help to us and we gave them our friendship in return. [end recording]

As far as the future is concerned, 'Uwaydah is cautiously optimistic. He does not want to mention a date for the actual establishment of an independent Palestinian state. However, the PLO has already entered the final race. It will reach the goal before the end of the year, 'Uwaydah stressed.

Sources Say 'Arafat May Visit Cairo 'This Week'

JN3007164090 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 29 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has received a Palestinian request expressing Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's wish to attend part of the 19th meeting of Islamic foreign ministers, scheduled to open in Cairo Tuesday.

PLO sources told the AL-BAYAN correspondent in Cairo that 'Arafat may arrive in Cairo this week to pay the visit that was suddenly postponed last week. The sources said that contacts and consultations between the PLO leadership and the Egyptian presidential office concerning this visit are continuing.

Al-Najjab on Moscow Talks, European Role

JN2807165990 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[By Muhammad Ahmad al-Qabisi from Tunis]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has expressed the hope that the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council will meet in Paris shortly and that a Soviet-Arab-Palestinian meeting will be held within the next few days.

In statements to AL-QABAS, he said that the visit that he, along with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, made to the

USSR last week yielded positive results. He also valued the new European position represented by the EC troika meetings with the Palestinian leaders, particularly with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

The Palestinian official added that the visit he made to the USSR, along with Abu-Mazin, took place within the framework of the joint Palestinian-USSR coordination committee. He went on to say: We discussed with the Soviets the most important developments in the efforts to attain a political settlement, particularly the exacerbation of the Israeli settlement threat caused by Jewish emigration. The Palestinian side called for securing protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in light of the practices of the hardline Shamir government, al-Najjab added. The Palestinian official said that the Palestinian and Soviet sides agreed on the importance of the Baghdad summit resolutions, including those expressing support for the Palestinian peace initiative and stressing the importance of making collective Arab moves to prepare successfully for an international conference.

The Palestinian official said that the Soviet side openly criticized the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO and rejected the U.S. Administration's excuses to justify its decision.

Al-Najjab noted that a joint decision was made to upgrade Soviet- Palestinian-European coordination. He noted that the Soviet and Palestinian sides valued the advanced European position on settlement endeavors and on efforts to prepare for the convocation of an international conference to be held with the participation of the PLO. The two sides also appreciated the fact that Europe had begun to make decisions independently, regardless of the policy of the United States, which has been increasingly adopting a single- handed policy in the face of international settlement endeavors despite the failure of the U.S. role in the peace process and the stalemate reached by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan.

The PLO Executive Committee member said that the Soviets and Europeans will work seriously to help the UN Security Council play its role in securing protection for the Palestinian people and also in guaranteeing that no settlement activities will be carried out in occupied Palestine.

The Palestinian official added that the Soviets welcomed the decision espoused by the Arab foreign ministers who recently met in Tunis—the decision calling for a joint Arab position in reply to the U.S. position on the dialogue in particular and overall U.S. policy in general. He added that the Soviets demonstrated an understanding of the deep Palestinian concern about the dangers posed by settlement efforts and also of the Shamir government's refusal to commit itself to any international agreement banning these efforts.

The Palestinian official added: We asked the Soviets to link the emigration question to the political settlement to serve efforts to reach this settlement. Any talk of settlement under the present circumstances of emigration is a waste of time. In addition, the Palestinian delegation asked the Soviet side to take practical measures to translate into acts and deeds the statement made by President Gorbachev in Washington—the statement in which he threatened to stop Jewish emigration if Israel does not provide guarantees to halt the settlement. The Palestinian official added that the Soviet side committed itself to continue efforts to obtain these guarantees through the United Nations and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Moreover, the Soviets expressed their readiness to coordinate and work with Arab states to bring pressure to bear on the United States to make it remove barriers it placed on Soviet immigrants desiring to go to the United States and to work with other states to facilitate the reception of Soviet immigrants.

Asked by AL-QABAS about the role expected to be played by the Arab states in this issue in particular, Sulayman al-Najjab said: The Arab states can play a significant role in bringing up this issue with the Soviets and also within the framework of the Helsinki conference to help secure respect for the Palestinian people's national rights, which are being jeopardized by emigration. He added that the Arabs must take the initiative in providing economic aid to the USSR, as he said that the main reason for emigration is economic difficulties. The USSR also emphasized that Arab funds can help tackle these difficulties and help face the U.S. blackmail of the Soviets, as the United States is linking economic aid to unrestricted emigration. He went on to say that Arab economic assistance to the Soviets would be extended to safeguard Arab interests.

Regarding the meetings held by the EC troika with Palestinian leaders in Tunis three days ago, the PLO Executive Committee member told AL-QABAS that the outcome of these meetings was good. He termed the meetings as a positive and new step to enhancing European-Arab dialogue and coordination. He added that the main demand made by president 'Arafat to the troika delegation concerned how the new positive and advanced public positions contained in the Dublin declaration could be turned into mechanisms to be used by a European initiative that would activate current efforts to prepare for an international conference bypassing the U.S. monopoly of peace efforts. Al-Najjab added that the Palestinian side came out of these meetings appreciating the European role in efforts to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and also in advancing efforts for an international conference with the participation of the PLO. The Palestinian side also appreciated the European policy, which has shown signs of further independence from current U.S. policy. The Palestinian side also valued the European position against the U.S. decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO, al-Najjab said. He demanded European efforts to make the United States reverse this decision and also to upgrade the level and content of the dialogue.

Jibril Condemns 'Interference' of 'Arafat's Forces

LD0108122490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) General Command, strongly condemned the interference of 'Arafat's forces in the clashes between the revolutionary Hizballah forces and the Amal Movement.

According to the IRNA report from Beirut, he referred in a speech published today to America's conspiracies against Lebanon in order to continue civil war, and he delivered blows at the spiritual and crusading [jihadgaraneh] attitude of the anti-Zionist forces. He said: Not only does 'Arafat attach no importance to Lebanon and the Palestinians living in that country, he has constantly tried to intensify the flames of sedition and war among the Lebanese and Palestinian forces.

In another part of his speech, condemning the propaganda onslaught of some circles, including 'Arafat's supporters, against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ahmad Jibril said: Is it right that the Islamic Republic of Iran, which wishes to see the uprooting of the cancerous tumor of the regime occupying Jerusalem from the region and which is endeavoring for its achievement, be subjected to such an unjust propaganda onslaught?

At the end, Ahmad Jibril asked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Hafiz Asad, the presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria, to make every effort to put an end to the war between the revolutionary Hizballah Movement and Amal Movement in South Lebanon, which is the center of the struggles of the fighters against the Zionist regime.

Algeria

Ait Ahmed Interviewed on FFS Election Strategy

LD3107164790 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1100 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Interview with Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, FFS, by announcer Rachid Arhab and journalist Auberi Edler; via satellite link with Algiers—live]

[Excerpts] [Arhab] [passage omitted] Sir, in the last municipal elections you advocated a boycott. Do you accept the idea that this was a historic error and that it is a little too late to catch up with the fundamentalists?

[Ait Ahmed] No, not at all. I believe that people are wrong when they say it was a mistake. First of all one must remember that it was a political position decided by the authorities of my party, and, furthermore, a form of peaceful protest. I would like to add to the file the fact that if we had taken part there would probably have been incidents because faced with the collapse of the state, the absence of the authorities, as we had popular support it would have been easy for us to discipline our troops, but as for the population [as a whole] it would have been difficult for us to prevent incidents. So, I say that in fact our position could have appeared [too] subtle, but now it is understood. In the light of the rigging, the elements of irregularity which marked the elections of 12 June, I believe...

[Edler, interrupting] Ait Ahmed, all the same you missed a good opportunity; you even admitted you were surprised by the big swing toward the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

[Ait Ahmed] No, you know I was expecting the success of the FIS, but I was not prepared for the extent of it. I believe that what people do not point out enough is that the FIS was helped in this success, in particular by the political police, so no one talks about it, and everyone knows that it is a basic but unpredictable factor. I believe that in this area it played an odd game.

[Edler] Yes, but do you not believe now that it is a little late? What means, what alliances are you going to find to attempt to limit this pro-Islamic surge in Algeria?

[Ait Ahmed] Can you say that it is late, what is late? How does one lead the political life of a country to an election? Moreover, you say that the abstention [boycott of vote called for by the FFS] was a success: consider that in February 1989 there were 13.18 million registered [to vote], and that in the last election there were only 12.8 million. What happened to the 500,000 others? Everything was done at the administrative level to lower the rate of abstention, although officialy it was a triumph. It is admitted that there was 46 percent, but I can tell you that there was an abstention rate of around 55 or 60 percent. So, in light of this election there were two phenomena—the appearance, the upsurge of the FIS, and the success of the abstention. We do not claim that all of these abstainers were FFS supporters, but what I can say is that in any case we did not promote the upsurge. If we promoted political parties then it was the little democratic political parties.

[Edler] On that very subject please, Ait Ahmed, are you thinking of alliances for the preparation of the forthcoming legislative election?

[Ait Ahmed] Of course, of course, clearly set out alliances...

[Arhab, interrupting] With whom, with whom, sir?

[Ait Ahmed] With the democratic parties; we are in the processing of discussing things. On the one hand there are negotiations with the parties with the aim of forming a democratic opposition front; on the other we have launched a forum with the political associations. I think that the associations must have an important part to play in the forthcoming legislative elections. In particular I am thinking of fighting [militer] for a quota of candidatures to be reserved for women. I believe that women's contribution in the political life of our country can be important and beneficial.

[Edler] Frankly, Ait Ahmed, do you see yourself in power shortly in Algeria?

[Ait Ahmed] Listen, what I see myself doing is continuing with my campaign. I have just returned from a campaign during which I visited workers in factories at which I attended commemorations. I am present on the ground, and my party is in the process of developing despite the enormous handicaps—just imagine, our newspaper has not appeared because it lacks paper. There is paper every day for the daily papers who lay into us [nous tapent dessus], and where we are concerned we have no paper. So, the big problem now with the forthcoming elections is the conditions in which they are going to take place. I believe above all that it is important that there should not be any discrimination between the political parties in terms of availability of means of information and material means, and [I believe in] the need for neutrality and impartiality on the part of the administration.

[Arhab] A very last question, sir. In a few words, do you not fear the return of the other famous Algerian exile, Ahmed Ben Bella, who has announced he will return in September? How will things go, in your opinion?

[Ait Ahmed] Well, sir, I have never based my political action on fear. I believe that his return is necessary. I cannot but wish for it, above all on an emotional level—I have been an exile myself, I understand—and on a political level, Algeria's political physiognomy must be complete and there must be clarity. I believe that once on the ground people can talk. Circumstances should be perceived not in terms of leaders but in terms of programs. It is on the basis of concrete plans that the parties in the end have to form alliances or break their ties.

[Arhab] Thank you very much for having answered our questions live from Algiers.

[Ait Ahmed] Thank you.

Iraqi Envoy Conveys Message to President

JN2807194090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1738 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, 28 Jul (INA)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received this afternoon 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and oil minister.

During the meeting, the envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn conveyed a message from his excellency the president to the Algerian president on bilateral ties and recent regional developments. Algerian Industry and Mines Minister Sadek Boussena and the Iraqi ambassador to Algeria attended the meeting.

The presidential envoy arrived here earlier today.

Economy Minister Comments on Talks With France

PM2707112490 Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Jul 90 pp 1, 20

[Jacques de Barrin and Veronique Maurus report: "Mr. Hidouci's Plea for Reforms"]

[Excerpts] No, "it was not an emergency meeting," Ghazi Hidouci emphasized. Since September 1989 when he was appointed economy minister, he has seen Mr. Beregovoy three times; the next meeting with his French counterpart has been set for September. He expressed surprise and almost pleasure at the fact that his visit to Paris has received so much attention and he may even think that the large-scale criticism orchestrated for months by the Islamic movement has paradoxically had the advantage of forcing a sympathetic attitude from his French interlocutors to whom he was trying to "sell" the new Algerian economic reform policy based on market laws.

"I encountered a great deal of understanding in most of the countries concerned, notably Italy, Britain, and the United States, and even a similar attitude from the French monetary authorities and banks, despite all the anxieties of the recent months," according to 51-year-old Mr. Hidouci who was director of the president's economic and financial department from 1984 to 1989.

The practical result of his "rapid and direct" discussions with Mr. Beregovoy is: "We have decided to extend all the agreements signed in 1989 in the next few days."

These are all the agreements, Mr. Hidouci explained, "which already link our two countries in the sphere of financial facilities for commerce, projects, and the balance of payments." [passage omitted]

Has France been asked for new credit? "We primarily discussed much more effective mechanisms for using this credit," Mr. Hidouci explained. In this connection, "no action is being envisaged by the monetary authorities. New market mechanisms between the banks have been operating for severals months in the framework of better control over commercial competition." To this end, it is vital to "convince the Algerians that they must pay the market prices, even given the political risks." [passage omitted]

Are there obstacles which might deter foreign investors from investing? The minister mentioned two. The first is "the capacity of the existing enterprises to rapidly find a place on the market and do business quickly." In his view "there are now virtually no obstacles presented by legislation and regulations. I have closed all foreign trade offices. The administration no longer intervenes in granting permission for investment irrespective of whether the applications are from Algerian or foreign investors. There have been no price controls for 18 months, other than on the retail prices of five strategic products."

The second obstacle is "apprehension about existing and future political stability." However, according to Mr. Hidouci, there is no longer a doctrinal quarrel in the economic sphere. Everybody, in the government and the opposition, more or less defends the system of a market which is "completely free and unrestrained as far as the Islamic movement is concerned, and privatized but organized as far as we are concerned." According to him, this would limit the damage caused by any political upheavals. [passage omitted]

Egypt

PLO Envoy Asked To Convey Message to 'Arafat

JN2807140990 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met yesterday with Sa'id Kamal, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo.

Sources from the Palestinian information bureau in Cairo said that Dr. al-Baz gave Sa'id Kamal a short message to convey to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The message concerns preparing the atmosphere for a meeting between Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat.

Prime Minister Sidqi Departs for Amman 27 Jul

NC2707164690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi left Cairo for Amman this evening. He will lead Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Jordanian joint higher committee which will begin in Amman tomorrow. The meetings will last for two days. [passage omitted]

Nation Refuses Military Maneuvers With U.S.

NC3107132290 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 30 Jul 90 p 11

[Text] For the first time in several years, Egypt has refused to hold joint maneuvers with the U.S. forces.

Colin Powell, U.S. chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, who visited Egypt recently, had suggested to Egyptian officials that it was necessary to continue these maneuvers. However, Egyptian Defense Minister General Yusuf Abu-Talib told him that the political leadership refuses to carry out these annual maneuvers because of developments in the Egyptian-Arab relations, particularly the relations with Libya.

During his recent visit to Egypt at the end of May, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi emphasized to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that it is necessary to stop these maneuvers which expose Libya's security to danger because the U.S. forces deliberately use live ammunition during maneuvers which are carried out near the Libyan coast.

Klibi Commends Mubarak on Iraq-Kuwait Dispute

NC3007044690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has commended President Mubarak's efforts to contain the Iraq-Kuwait dispute. In a statement following his meeting in Cairo last night with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, he asserted that Iraq and Kuwait are eager to have the Arab League play a role in ending the dispute between them.

Klibi said his meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid dealt with the forthcoming Arab summit which will be held in Cairo next November, as well as with the issue of moving the Arab League General Secretariat to Cairo and the relevant timetable.

Received by Mubarak 31 Jul

NC3107112590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1017 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Klibi later stated that he and President Mubarak discussed preparations for the upcoming Arab summit which will be held in Cairo 24-26 November.

Klibi said the majority of Arab states have agreed to prepare for the next Arab summit with a meeting at ambassador level, to be followed by a foreign ministers' meeting, before the leaders begin their summit meeting. [passage omitted]

As for returning Arab League headquarters to Cairo, Klibi said this will begin in September following the meeting of the league's Ministerial Council. He noted that the process will continue until June 1991.

He pointed out that the Arab League General Secretariat has prepared a number of measures to settle the positions of its employees. These measures will be presented to the five-member committee in charge of the matter.

Klibi's meeting with President Mubarak was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

USSR's Tarasov Meets With Al-Baz, Comments

NC3007102790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, met today with Gennadiy Tarasov, USSR deputy foreign minister for Middle East affairs, who is visiting Cairo.

Speaking after the meeting, the Soviet official said they had discussed developments in the Middle East in light of Egypt's efforts to bring about peace and stability. He added that they also reviewed the outcome of the disarmament talks and the progress achieved in this connection.

He said his talks in Cairo are part of the continuous consultations between the two countries on various levels.

Tripartite Committee Envoy Arrives in Cairo

NC3007182190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1629 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the Arab higher tripartite committee on Lebanon, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit to Egypt which is expected to last several days.

Ibrahimi said that during the visit he will meet with the members of the tripartite committee and with Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, who is also visiting Egypt. They will discuss the latest developments in the Lebanese issue.

President of UAE Arrives in Cairo 31 Jul

NC3107183490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1616 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived in Cairo at 1900 today for a three-day visit to Egypt.

President Mubarak led the delegation receiving the Arab guest at the airport. The two leaders embraced at the steps of the plane. Also on hand to receive His Highness Shaykh Zayid were Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for cabinet affairs

and minister of state for administrative development; Dr. Mahmud al-Sharif, governor of Cairo; and Arab ambassadors in Cairo.

Shaykh Zayid is accompanied on his visit to Egypt by a delegation that includes Shaykh Rashid Ibn-Ahmad al-Mu'alla, member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of 'Umm al-Quwayn; Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, the UAE president's representative; Dr. Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources; Major General Hammudah Ibn-'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs; Khalifah al-Rumi, minister of labor and social affairs; Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nuways, under secretary at the Ministry of Information and Culture; Nasir al-Nuways, under secretary at the Ministry of Finance and Industry and general director of the Abu Dhabi Economic Development Fund; Lieutenant Shaykh Nasir Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan; and Hamad Hilal Thabit, UAE ambassador to Egypt.

President Mubarak escorted Egypt's guest from Cairo Airport to the Saray al-Qubbah subway station where they were to take the subway to the railway station from which they would travel to Alexandria by train.

'Abd-Al-Majid on Iran Ties, Iraq-Kuwait Dispute

NC0108132190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the Islamic foreign ministers conference is proceeding as planned and that the heads of the participating delegations are making statements to the conference to expound their countries' views on the issues under discussions.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he is willing to meet with Iranian delegation members to discuss all issues if the latter requests such a meeting. On the question of restoring ties between Egypt and Iran, he said this matter is still premature.

Commenting on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti meeting in Jeddah, 'Abd-al-Majid noted that there have been reports the meeting has been postponed for another date to be agreed upon by the concerned parties. He stressed that Egypt and other Arab countries wish to end the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. He noted that Egypt has emphasized, as President Mubarak stated, that it supports the efforts being made in this regard. He said that it has also made efforts in cooperation with Arab brothers to resolve the disagreement between the two countries. He said he hopes this aim will be realized.

Al-Huss Speech at Cairo ICO Meeting Viewed

NC0108065690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] In a speech at the second closed session of the Islamic conference in Cairo yesterday, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said that Lebanon hopes the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] will support its efforts to oust the Israeli occupation forces from the Lebanese territory in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Dr. al-Huss said that tragic experience has taught us that from now on we must not waive the strength of our society and that such a strength can be attained under a capable and just legitimate umbrella. He said that the national accord document has set the foundations for a realistic and viable remedy of the causes of the national crisis and its political and security consequences. He added that the decision to set up an international fund for the reconstruction of Lebanon will enable Lebanon to regain its health and development.

Talks on Military Cooperation With Mali Open

NC3007075490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Military talks between Egypt and Mali opened in Cairo this morning under the chairmanship of General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, Armed Forces commander in chief and minister of defense and war production, and General Mamadou Coulibaly, Malian minister of defense [name and title as received].

The talks were attended by the commanders in chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces branches, the secretary general of the Defense Ministry, senior Armed Forces commanders, and the members of the delegation accompanying the Malian minister.

The talks dealt with ways to bolster bilateral military cooperation and reviewed the situation in the region.

The Malian minister arrived in Cairo last evening at the head of a military delegation on a seven-day visit to Egypt.

Debt Settlement Agreement Signed With Romania

NC2807135490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1257 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—The Governments of Egypt and Romania have concluded an agreement on the settlement of part of the debt to Romania. Under the agreement, Egypt will export nonconventional goods worth $105 million to Romania. These goods include medicines, buses, car batteries, refrigerators, detergents, color television sets, and insecticides.

A Romanian economic delegation led by Ion Emil Naziliu, deputy minister of foreign trade [name and title as received], held talks with Egyptian officials at the Ministries of Economy, International Cooperation, and Trade Representation [as received] last week, in a bid to reach agreement on the settlement of the debt.

Press Syndicate Affirms No Normalization With Israel

NC2807153390 Cairo MENA in English 1440 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, July 28 (MENA)—The board of the press syndicate today stressed anew the commitment to the decisions that have been made by the syndicate's general assembly since 1980, of not normalising professional, personal and trade unionist relations with Israel till it recognizes the Palestinians' legitimate rights and evacuates from all the occupied Arab territories.

A statement released today also said that abidance by these decisions at present is pressing more than any time before, under escalation of the Israeli oppression, refusal of all legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, flow of immigrants to Israel and their settlement in the occupied Arab lands so as to achieve the dream of the Greater Israel, as well as the Israeli leaders' insistence on refusing all efforts exerted to push forward the peace process and to solve the Palestinian issue and placing obstacles impeding achievement of a just and overall solution of the Palestinian issue and peace in the area.

Morocco

Further Reportage on Visit by PRC's Qian Qichen

Qian Meets With Counterpart

LD2607172890 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The first day of the visit by PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen was marked by his meeting this morning with Abdellatif Filali, the foreign affairs and cooperation minister. During this meeting, the two ministers exchanged views on the most important international and bilateral issues in the light of the recent developments in the international arena, whether in the East or the West. Among the hotbeds of tension to attract the attention of the two ministers was the issue of Cambodia, which won special attention from both sides. [passage omitted]

Qian Received by Laraki

LD2707163590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki received in his office this morning PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen within the context of his official visit to our country. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations, which are characterized by mutual friendship and respect. The two expressed their desire to consolidate the means of cooperation in various fields. The prime minister also raised regional and international issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, the Chinese ambassador in Rabat, and the prime minister's close aides.

Qian Received by House Speaker

LD2707202590 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Ahmed Osman, speaker of the house of representatives, received this morning Mr. Qian Qichen, the Chinese foreign minister, who is on an official visit to our country. During this audience, the two sides discussed the historical relations which link the two countries and which are built on mutual respect. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hassan Abou Ayoub, minister of external trade, met this morning Mr. Qian Qichen, the Chinese foreign minister. The talks covered the economic relations between the two countries and means to strengthen them. The two sides agreed to lay down a program for holding exhibitions in the two countries to get acquainted with the products that can be traded.

Qian Received by King Hassan

LD2707211890 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpt] At the royal palace in Skhirat this afternoon, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who was accompanied by his country's ambassador in Rabat and the director of the Asia and North Africa department at the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

During this meeting, the Chinese minster handed his majesty a special message from the Chinese president. [passage omitted]

Qian Issues Statement; Departs

LD2807132790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 28 Jul 90

[Text] PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen left Morocco this morning after a three-day official visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II and held talks with a number of Moroccan officials.

Before leaving Casablanca, the Chinese official gave a statement to the Moroccan radio and television, saying that the visit was fruitful and important and was within the framework of consolidating the bilateral relations which were characterized by friendship and mutual respect. The visit came as an expression of the will to consolidate cooperation in all fields, especially economic and social fields.

The Chinese minister said in this context that his country intends aftewards to contribute to the construction of a sports complex in Fes similar to the Prince Moulay Abdalla Sports Complex in Rabat.

Concerning international issues, the head of Chinese diplomacy pointed out that the talks between the two sides were very important and included issues of mutual interest.

He praised the important role played by His Majesty King Hassan II in the international arena and pointed out the distinguished status enjoyed by Morocco among the nations.

Hassan Receives Message From Iraq's Husayn

JN2707194190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1843 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Rabat, 27 Jul (INA)—His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco received Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, Iraqi minister of transport and communications and envoy of President Saddam Husayn, here today. The presidential envoy conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to the Moroccan monarch on bilateral issues and regional developments. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Receives UAE President

LD3107093690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may god grant him victory, who was flanked by His Royal Highness Sidi Mohamed, the crown prince, and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, received yesterday evening in the royal palace in Rabat His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the United Arab Emirates president. His majesty and his highness the shaykh had tete-a-tete talks which were followed by a dinner banquet hosted by his majesty in honor of Morocco's big guest. [passage omitted]

Istiqlal Head on Campaign for Spanish Enclaves

LD2307111990 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpts] In Nador, the nationalist opposition party Istiqlal has claimed Moroccan sovereignty over Ceuta and Melilla. A gathering held 15 kilometers from Melilla and attended by some 1,500 people served to explain the content of a campaign claiming the two Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla and to call for international intervention, the mediation of the pope, and even to threaten the use of violence. Pedro Medina reports:

[Medina] Yesterday in Nador, some 14 kilometers from Melilla, the Moroccan nationalist opposition party Istiqlal held the first event in the campaign claiming that Ceuta and Melilla are Moroccan—a campaign announced in Rabat a few days ago by the party's secretary general, the former minister in our neighboring country, Mohamed Boucetta. [passage omitted] After yesterday's rally, in which slogans supporting the idea that the two Spanish North African towns are Moroccan were the main feature, the deputy secretary general of Istiqlal granted an interview to Spanish National Radio in which he emphasized the friendship of the two peoples and the need to resolve the dispute peacefully. Mohamed Douiri:

[Begin Douiri recording in French with Spanish translation] The Moroccan and the Spanish people are two peoples who are friends and who must always work to consolidate their friendship. All the actions that we are going to carry out are peaceful, but if we do not get a response from the Spanish Government, the Moroccan people might find themselves drawn to situations of violence which they do not want at any time and which must be avoided. [end recording]

[Medina] This Istiqlal campaign claiming Ceuta and Melilla started in Nador yesterday and will continue with other gatherings which are to be held on the 4th and 20th of August in the northern Moroccan towns of Martil, about 30 kilometers from Ceuta, and Ouzzane. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Reshuffles Cabinet

LD3107222990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Excerpt] We leave you with a report on royal activity, which we have just received:

The royal palace in Rabat witnessed intensive royal activity today. His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Moulay Rachid, received this morning at the Throne Hall in the royal palace in Rabat Mr Mohamed Karim Lamrani and appointed him economic advisor of his majesty attached to the royal court. He handed him the noble royal message which relieved him from his [previous] functions.

His majesty also received Mr Mohamed Fettah, whom his majesty has appointed as new Director General of the Phosphate Bureau.

The noble monarch received Moulay Driss Alaoui M'Daghri and appointed him minister of energy and mines.

Then His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, received Mr Abdesslam Barakat, the minister in charge of relations with the parliament, and entrusted him with the functions of following up the affairs of the Arab Maghreb.

Then, his majesty received Mr Abdallah Kadri whom the noble monarch appointed minister of tourism in replacement of Mr Moussa Saadi.

Finally, His Majesty King Hassan II received Mr Rafik Haddaoui, whom his majesty appointed as minister attached to the premiership in charge of the Moroccan community abroad. [passage omitted]

Party of Progress and Socialism Leader Interviewed

PM2707115690 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 31 Jul 90 p 25

[Interview with 'Ali Yata, secretary general of the Moroccan Party of Progress and Socialism, by 'Ali Anuzla in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Anuzla] You have recently expressed willingness to be part of a national coalition government comprising all patriotic and democratic forces. Why, in your view, is there a need at present for such a government?

[Yata] The position we took in the AL-BAYAN editorial is nothing new. Our party has brandished the "national coalition government" slogan—as outlined in my report to the party's first congress in 1975—ever since that congresss. [passage omitted]

We are now working for the formation of a coalition government, and naturally we want to be part of such a government. That is what every political party wants. Any claim to the contrary is unfounded.

[Anzula] Do you have any preconditions for joining the proposed government?

[Yata] We are not interested in joining the [present] government because we believe that it has failed and that from the very outset its options have been unsuited to the current phase in the country. That is why we call for its dismissal and for the formation of a new government.

[Anzula] Do you have any particular proposals regarding an alternative government?

[Yata] Because the policy of the current government has failed, we call for a new policy with options based on serving the homeland's interests. We maintain that such a government must have a program and that it should not be formed before all participants agree on such a program. [passage omitted]

[Anzula] You have addressed appeals to all effective forces in the country. Does that include the majority parties?

[Yata] We support the unity of the opposition forces representing the nationalist movement in this country. There can be no progress in any field without the participation of the opposition. There are politically organized forces with which we disagree on many essential issues, but we do not ignore these forces which, incidentally, support the current government. That is what we mean by a national coalition government.

[Anzula] Since you have mentioned opposition unity, how do you view the unity of the opposition parties following the no-confidence motion against the government in recent months?

[Yata] We are very pleased with the development that has occurred in this regard in recent years. We have been able to agree in parliament on numerous issues and to take joint stands and actions for the sake of objectives that we had agreed on. This is what happened when a few months ago we introduced a motion of no-confidence in the government and urged the rejection of its policies. Of course we did not succeed in this, but the move had a strong impact on the Moroccan public and a positive effect abroad. [passage omitted]

[Anuzla] You have said that there is more agreement than disagreement among the opposition parties, but some people believe that there is some considerable disagreement between you and the other pillars of the opposition—the Istiqlal Party and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces—as reflected in their nonparticipation in the committee studying the proposed constitutional amendment.

[Yata] We in the opposition have been in agreement on many central issues for the past two years, but we disagree on ideological issues and other secondary issues. We know nothing about the committee you have mentioned. All it amounts to is that King Hassan II summoned the leaders of the opposition parties—that is, the Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, and the Party of Progress and Socialism. He asked us to submit concrete proposals for inclusion in the consitution. I contacted all the opposition leaders, and I can say that there was full agreement among us on essential issues. There is no national committee from which the Party of Progress and Socialism has been excluded.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Chairs RCC, Army, Ministers' Meeting

EA2507084490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of defense, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, chaired a meeting at the General Command this morning of commanders of commands and military zones. The meeting was attended by Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir and Brigadier Ibrahim Nayil Idam, RCC members and the chief of general staff and his deputies. It was also attended by the ministers of finance, commerce, cooperation, and supply, agriculture, natural resources, and animal resources, presidential affairs, foreign affairs, justice and attorney general, and culture and information.

The ministers briefed the commanders on the achievements of the National Salvation Revolution during the past year.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir greeted the gathering saying it had been the Armed Forces which had borne the burden of responsibility during the period. He said it was incumbent upon us to enlighten them on the achievements of the revolution during the past year.

Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, the minister of finance and economic planning, briefed the meeting in detail on the economic situation, reviewing at the same time the guidelines of the three-year program for economic salvation. His excellency said the aim of the program was to gear the Sudanese economy to production and put it on the right

track to enable it thereafter to bring about overall development. The finance minister added that to achieve this objective all available resources must be mobilized and full opportunities must be given to all to participate and strive to provide additional resources. The minister clarified that the new budget had brought about social equilibrium and reduced tax thresholds as well as laying down principles to reform the banking system.

The minister of commerce, cooperation, and supply was the next to speak, saying that his ministry had inherited zero reserves of many essential commodities. On administrative corruption he said it was a living embodiment of the concentration of power in the hands of the minister with complete disregard for policies, regulations and checks. This led to opening the door wide to political excesses and the domination of the arena by parasitic elements. He announced that the ministry would be exporting 20,000 tonnes of sugar as of now. His excellency added that the ministry had opened the door to the free market to expand imports of essential commodities and to boost local production in order to attract the savings of expatriate workers while providing unrestricted currency for the local producer.

Khalifah Announces Mubarak Proposal for Meeting

EA2607134590 Khartoum SUNA in English 0921 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, 26th July—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak had proposed the convening of a joint meeting between President Hissein Habre of Chad and the Libya leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for solving the conflict between Chad and Libya.

President Mubarak proposed that the said meeting should be attended by Chairman of the RCC [Revolutionary Command Council] Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, RCC member Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, who met President Mubarak in Cairo recently, announced to the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" today. President Mubarak's proposal comes in the framework of realising security and stability in the area, Col. Khalifah said.

Comments on Political Organization

EA2807073890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and head of the Peace and Foreign Relations Department, has affirmed that the pluralist, military, and comprehensive political system has proven to be a failure in Sudan and that the conference scheduled to be held on 6 August on political organization will try to escape from these three formulas in order to arrive at a Sudanese formula for a system of consultation. Discussions on this are being held with specialists and people of experience, and the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, has assured him of the agreement of the rebel movement's leader with the efforts exerted to achieve peace in the country, saying he had offered many concessions.

Col. Khalifah confirmed that he is prepared to meet the leader of the movement on condition that he is serious about discussing basic issues so that peace is achieved through negotiation and dialogue.

About the state of emergency and curfew, the RCC member said the state of emergency will be abolished soon and the curfew will be lifted in the future, explaining that the revolution has allowed journalists for the first time to visit prisons so they will be certain that what is being said about violations of human rights is false.

Islamic Front Members Said Expelled From Uganda

EA2407102290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The Ugandan Government has expelled a number of the National Islamic Front [NIF] members working with the Islamic Organization, Da'wah Islamiyah, in Uganda. The Ugandan Government accused the expelled NIF members of interfering into the country's internal affairs.

Those who have been expelled for good are Al-Hadi Buhari and Muhammad Yusuf Abdullah, who after his dismissal has been appointed as first secretary in the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa.

Meanwhile, the Ugandan Government has refused to renew the residence papers to the following: Ahmad Ibrahim, an accountant at the African Islamic Corporation, Ahmad al-Tawm, director of African Islamic Corporation in Uganda, and an engineer known as (Khaluti).

Embassy Denies 500,000 Civil Servants Dismissed

AB2607105890 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi has issued a statement in which it has pointed out the hostile campaign against Sudan being pursued by the French news agency, AFP, with the publication of contrary reports and unfounded lies. The embassy expressed its regret that the Kenyan press had followed the campaign and had begun to publish these biased reports.

The embassy cited the example of a report published in today's edition of the DAILY NATION and in the KENYA TIMES newspaper on 21 July, quoting the French agency, which claimed that the Sudanese Government had dismissed 500,000 employees from the civil service. The statement added that the ill will in publishing such a report needs no proof in that the strength of the entire Sudanese civil service does not reach that figure.

The Sudanese Embassy explained that the government, within the framework of its economic salvation program, had taken several steps to reemploy about 500,000

employees in the state by transfering surplus employees from some departments to units that needed extra employees, in addition to freezing current posts and encouraging those wishing to be pensioned to choose [word indistinct] leave without (?pay).

The embassy explained that a special budget had been earmarked within the three-year economic salvation program for the years 1990-1993 for [word indistinct] training and rehabilitation of low-income groups and weak economic sectors. The statement added that the government will also reconsider the nonprofitable establishments and will take the necessary decisions either to freeze them or transfer them to the public sector [word indistinct] them through partnership between the government and the private sector. The statement explained that those steps represent part of the government's program which is being discussed at present with the International Monetary Fund.

The DAILY NATION newspaper published this response today in its World Reports page.

Kuwait

Editorial Views Prospects for Success in Jeddah

JN3107162790 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Jul 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Kuwaiti Principles and the Solution"]

[Text] Prior to the Jeddah meeting between Iraq and Kuwait, the Council of Ministers, as stated by State Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, reaffirmed a number of constants in Kuwait's relations with Iraq.

One of these constants is Kuwait's strong desire to solve this problem within the Arab context and its diligent endeavor to bring about a successful, just, final, and comprehensive solution to all issues pertaining to this problem.

Another constant is that Kuwait goes to the meeting with an open heart, reflecting cordial feelings, sincere brotherhood, and deep bonds with fraternal Iraq.

As we have always said, Kuwait's earnest adherence to these principles in its pan-Arab relations gives rise to hope that the meeting will clear the air between the two countries and rebuild their relations on firm foundations that would "spare the Arab nation further fragmentation and divisions, help entrench the region's security and stability, distance the region from foreign interference, and bolster Arab unity and solidarity."

We know—according to the simplest rules of logic—that good intentions can open all roads to a solution. And we know, furthermore, that if these good intentions proceed from clear and definitive bases, everything will be possible. In our opinion, points of disagreement should be identified and limited, and then a mechanism for implementation should be laid down. According to the same logic of constants, the various links of the settlement must be joined so that a final solution to this problem in all its aspects can be reached, and no obstacle in the way of the sincere march of brotherhood and good and productive neighborliness between the two fraternal countries can remain.

Brotherhood and joint interests dictate a just and comprehensive solution. The pan-Arab interest lies in the center of this approach, whereby the Arabs can back each other up. We should close our windows to poisonous winds that may bring disguised foreign interference.

Kuwait's eagerness to place and approach the problem in an Arab context—which is part of its pan-Arab principles—provided yet more evidence that it seeks to protect pan-Arab security from outsiders.

There is no doubt that the ability of the Arabs to find a solution and to guarantee its success bolsters the Arab image, which we all aspire to portray—the image of the strong, self-confident Arab who can deal with emergencies and problems wisely and successfully.

We have great hope that the Arabs at the eastern gate of the Arab world will be able to give a good account of themselves and serve as example for their brothers. A solution to this problem, in a spirit of justice and brotherhood, will be bright evidence of this great fact.

Ghana's Obeng Discusses Economic Opportunities

LD0108085890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0736 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 1 (KUNA)—Ghana's Prime Minister Paul Victor Obeng said Wednesday that his country tenders vast opportunities to Kuwaiti businessmen for investment in agriculture and industry, a Kuwaiti daily said.

Speaking to English daily KUWAIT TIMES published here today, Obeng said that Kuwait's capital would boost the quality of Ghana's different products like coca and rice.

Obeng, who is the special envoy of Ghana's President Jerry John Rawlings said that he had delivered a message to his highness the amir dealing with Ghana's preparations to host the non-aligned ministerial conference scheduled for September next year in Accra.

Over cooperation with African countries within the ECOWAS (Economic Commission of West African States), the Ghanese official said that his country had expressed its commitment to cooperate at all levels.

"Ghana is one of the strong believers in the future of ECOWAS, it has urged the administration of ECOWAS to hurry with its internal operation reforms to enable the ECOWAS community to realise the aims for which it was initiated," Obeng cited.

He said that his country has witnessed drastic economic and social changes due to the recovery programme of the last decade.

The second phase of the programme is due to be finalised by Feb 1991, in this programme the country will try and improve the lifestyle of its people, telecommunications, railways, farms, [word indistinct] industry and transport.

As for political reforms, the Ghanese premier said that a new structure will be adopted to enable people to take part with the government in the near future.

Obeng ended his visit to Kuwait yesterday heading for London.

Qatar

Paper on U.S. Silence on Israeli Chemical Arms

JN3007173690 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 30 Jul 90

[From the Gulf Press review]

[Text] Manama, 30 Jul (WAKH)—Qatari AL-'ARAB newspaper criticised the U.S. silence towards Israeli officials statements about Israel's possession of chemical weapons. It said there was not immediate American or

Western reaction to the Israeli admittance of possessing chemical weapons as was the case with Iraq and Libya which were subject to a rabid propaganda warfare launched by the U.S. and other Western countries.

The Israeli statements were no surprise for the Arabs. However, the surprise was the American and Western silence, AL-'ARAB said and recalled the U.S. previous positions towards Israel and its stintless support of the Zionist entity.

AL-'ARAB regretted that the Arab countries cannot adopt a unified strategy for the production of deterrent weapons to blunt the U.S. and Israeli weapons.

Amir Receives Message From Pakistan's Bhutto

JN3007134190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Doha, 30 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

Iqbal Akhund, the Pakistani prime minister's adviser, gave the message to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent, during their meeting this morning.

Saudi Arabia

Further on Kuwaiti-Iraqi Talks in Jeddah

Joint Meeting Begins

LD3107153490 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1459 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, 31 July (KUNA)—Iraq and Kuwait began a joint meeting here today, hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to resolve the dispute between the two countries. The meeting opened with a session attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, the Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, and the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations. Later, a session was held in closed chambers confined to the heads of the Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegations: His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, the [Kuwaiti] heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and 'Izzat Ibrzhim, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council [RCC]. His Highness the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers had visited his brother, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, at al-Salam Palace earlier today where he had met the vice chairman of the Iraqi RCC, 'Izzat Ibrahim, in the presence of King Fahd.

King Fahd Receives Delegations

LD3107212290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1520 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, 31 Jul (SPA)—At the guest palace in Al-Hamra, Jeddah, this afternoon, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of sister Kuwait, and his accompanying delegation.

At the same time, the king received His Excellency 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council in the sister Republic of Iraq, and his accompanying delegation. The king welcomed all of them to their second country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and wished them success in their task.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and national guard commander. It also was attended by His Excellency Muhammad al-Nuwaysir [name as received], chief of the Royal Bureau; His Excellency Muhammand Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education; His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-'Anqari, minister of municipal and rural affairs; the two ministers accompanying the two royal guests; and His Excellency 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sudayri, the Kingdom's ambassador to Kuwait.

First Reund of Talks Ends

LD3107185690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1730 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, July 31 (KUNA)—The first round of Kuwaiti-Iraqi talks on means of resolving differences between the two sisterly countries concluded here Tuesday.

The two hours session was attended by His Highness Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah and vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim.

They were joined later by Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad and Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari al-'Uthman and member of the Iraqi Command Council Sa'dun Hammadi and Minister of Local Government 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

King Fahd Hosts Banquet

LD3107212790 Kuwait KUNA in English 2020 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, July 31 (KUNA)—Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz hosted a dinner banquet tonight in

honor of Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegations present here to sort out differences that recently erupted between the two neighboring Arab countries over border and oil issues.The banquet was attended by His Highness the crown prince and premier of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim, members of the accompanying delegations and Saudi princes and senior officials.

The Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegates had concluded their first session of talks over two hours only a while ago.

Talks 'Suspended'; Borders Closed

JN0108111690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1102 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Iraq and Kuwait have suspended the Jeddah talks intended to settle the border and oil dispute and the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations have departed Jeddah. Meanwhile, diplomatic and oil sources in Kuwait and Baghdad have said that the land borders between the two countries have been closed but they have not specified since when. According to the same sources, these borders were still open as of last Sunday [29 Jul].

Warning on Israeli Weapons in Message to UN

JN3107173690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] United Nations, 31 July (INA)—Iraq today warned the international community of the dangers of Western and U.S. dualism in their Middle East policy which concentrates on making the Zionist entity the hegemonic power in the region.

The Iraqi message, which was sent by the Iraqi charge d'affaires to the UN secretary general and distributed here today as one of the official documents of the Security Council, contained the text of the statement by the Foreign Ministry's official spokesman on the remarks by Zionist Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman on "Israel's ability to use chemical weapons."

The message said: These remarks did not surprise Iraq because all evidence indicates that the Zionist entity possesses all weapons of nuclear, chemical, biological, and other types of mass destruction.

It added that the question that comes to mind immediately is U.S. and Western silence in general concerning these statements at a time when U.S. and Western circles are creating such an uproar against Iraq and other countries that arm themselves for self-defense purposes.

It said that this silence is another indication of the concerted efforts of the United States and the West to strip the Arabs of legitimate means of defending themselves and their interests in the face of Zionist aggression and designs.

Editorial Says Nation 'Stronger' Than in 1981

JN0108081890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0609 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that the Iraq of 1990 is not that of 1981; it is stronger, more capable of deterring the aggressors, and more skillful in obtaining its rights and in responding to anyone who tries to trespass on any inch of its territory.

In its editorial today, the paper adds: Tel Aviv must recall our leader Saddam Husayn's warning that if Israel attacks Iraq, we will burn half of Israel. This is a right to which we adhere, just as we adhere to our honor, freedom, history, present, and future. This is our position, which expresses our strong faith in our people, existence, and nation, and its right to choose its way of life and to restore what was usurped from it through aggression, plotting, and the alliance of enemies against its will and the aspirations of its people.

The paper adds: We will never relinquish this position or these rights no matter how loud the voice of Zionist threats becomes and regardless of the practices of the imperialist United States and Westerners, their Zionist allies, and their new wave of defamation, intrigue, and distortion of facts and positions with the objective of providing an appropriate cover for Israel to strike at vital targets in the Iraq of glory and pride.

The paper points out that the Zionist science minister's threats and his announcement that his entity possesses chemical weapons and the complete international silence over these threats, in addition to the methods of defamation and the distortion of facts that are fabricated by the Zionist entity's allies with the objective of providing a cover to carry out its hostile plans, will be to no avail and will only bring them defeat, disappointment, and an unhappy ending.

The paper adds: Just as the authorized spokesman stated yesterday, the imperialist states' attempts to shuffle cards for their controlled media—using Iraq's honorable, just national and pan-Arab position on OPEC oil policy as a pretext and cover for a new wave of defamation, intrigue, and distortion of facts and positions with the objective of providing a cover for the aggression—will be confronted by further alertness, vigilance, and ability to foil the evil intentions and smash their plans. This conflict with the forces of tyranny, aggression, and plotting is nothing new to the Iraqis and their leadership.

The paper adds: Iraq's warning to those who need to be warned is clear and frank. Our valiant Armed Forces, foremost of which are our heroic Air Force and the brave men of air defense, are lying in wait for them, and are stronger and more determined than at any time before, to shake up the entity of anyone who attacks Iraq. Those who are deluded into thinking they are capable of fighting Iraq and attacking its territory, people, and the centers of its strength and its scientific and technological awakening, must expect that Iraq's hand will be faster in responding to them at the right moment, and that the deterrent weapons it possesses will show the aggressors the doomsday before they die.

Levi Seeks Advance U.S. Agreement on Talks

TA0108050190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] If U.S. Secretary of State Baker and his aides expect Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi to appear in Washington in nine days and simply say yes to the incorporation in the Palestinian delegation of a deportee or two and an Arab resident of the territories with a business in East Jerusalem, they might be disappointed.

Instead, in his letter to President Bush, the prime minister suggested that the composition of the Palestinian delegation be determined on a name-by-name basis while personally examining each candidate for the Palestinian delegation for the dialogue with Israel. The Americans are now asking Foreign Minister Levi to provide Israeli clarifications for this suggestion. John Kelly, Baker's aide, spoke yesterday about these clarifications.

Next weekend, Foreign Minister David Levi will tell his U.S. counterpart that the issue of incorporating deportees and East Jerusalem residents into the dialogue is not the only question, and it cannot be discussed separately. It is one of a series of questions to which Israel is seeking a U.S. reply before entering the dialogue with the Palestinians. Israel wants to attain an agreement with the United States in advance about the rules on the negotiations; what will be discussed and how; who will attend the talks; and what would happen if, during the discussions, the other side raised a new proposal that would not be acceptable to Israel. For example, how will the United States react if the discussions go beyond the outline of an interim settlement?

Washington probably remembers that Levi has recently spoken in various forums about the need for a written U.S. commitment that it opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state and that it will not force Israel to hold a dialogue with the PLO.

Levi, Shevardnaze To Meet 'Next Month' in U.S.

TA0108054090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] The USSR is interested in expanding the dialogue with Israel, but the reestablishment of political ties is not expected soon. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Foreign Minister David Levi will confer with his USSR counterpart Shevardnadze during the UN General Assembly session in New York next month.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 1 August adds: "The head of the USSR consular delegation in Tel Aviv, Aleksey Chistyakov, delivered the invitation from Shevardnadze. In a meeting with Levi, Chistyakov made clear that Shevardnadze wants to open channels for dialogue with the new Israeli Government."]

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein told USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov that Israel has no policy of settling immigrants in the territories. He pointed out that Israel's challenge is absorbing the immigrants in the Galilee and the Negev.

The cabinet secretary last night briefed Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Levi about his USSR visit.

Cabinet Secretary Discusses Visit to USSR

TA3107171890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein today briefed Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi on the results of his visit to the Soviet Union. During the visit, Rubinstein met Aleksandr Belonogov, a USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] I had the opportunity to receive a first-hand and intensive impression of what interests the Soviets. We discussed various issues pertaining to the peace process, including regional developments and the situation in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We also discussed bilateral issues. I do not think that this comprises anything fundamentally new, because this policy is well known. This occasion only allowed us to define and strengthen our dialogue in several fields. If a normalization in relations does indeed take place, then obviously the possibility of holding a more comprehensive dialogue will become more practical. [end recording]

Canadian Defense Minister Meets Arens 31 Jul

TA0108084190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Aug 90 p 10

[ITIM report]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens yesterday met his Canadian counterpart, William McKnight, in Tel Aviv and discussed various Middle East problems. McKnight, accompanied by senior Canadian officers and his wife, is visiting Canadian contingents stationed in the area. From Israel he goes on to Egypt and Syria.

Arens on Lebanon Intervention, Defense Cuts

TA3107115490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens toured Rafah today, where he met with the mayor and other notables. He said that the meeting is one link in a chain of meetings he has been holding with mayors from the territories, including Gaza and Rafah, with the aim of exchanging views in order to voice his own view and hear theirs to locate areas of agreement beyond the disagreements. Minister Arens later addressed the

fighting between Amal and Hizballah and possible Israeli intervention in Lebanon:

[Begin recording] [Arens] I hope this will not be necessary. The situation in Lebanon has long been one in which people kill each other. First it was Christians against Christians, now it is Shiites against Shiites. Certainly there lurks the potential danger that the situation might deteriorate to such a point that it may jeopardize our interests. That is why we are following the situation very closely. After all, the area involved is very close to the security strip. We will know how to protect our interests.

[Menashe] At what point will Israel decide to intervene?

[Arens] I do not think we should make such declarations in advance, but the moment we feel this is necessary, we will know what to do.

[Menashe] It has been decided to slash 80 million shekels from the defense budget, and it has likewise been decided to accommodate new immigrants in Israel Defense Force camps. How can these two resolutions be reconciled?

[Arens] Regarding the decision to cut 80 million shekels from the defense budget, I must say that it was not adopted according to the proper procedures. I never even had a chance to present the Defense Ministry's position on the matter, and I believe it is very clear: Now of all times, especially after the cuts that have already been implemented, there is absolutely no room for additional cuts. If cuts are nevertheless decided upon, this will result in serious damage, which I believe will be felt by the entire nation. That is why we protest and appeal the decision. I hope that when I have the opportunity to present our position, a decision will indeed be adopted to repeal the earlier mistaken resolution. [end recording]

Minister Arens also said that the effects of the budget cut will be felt in military industries and deployment. He expressed his conviction that he will enjoy a cabinet majority in rejecting that resolution.

Chief of Staff, Aide Discuss Defense Cutbacks

TA3107194090 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said this evening that plans to develop new weapons systems would be detrimentally affected by the cut in the defense budget. Sources connected to the defense establishment added that the chances of implementing the submarine project are now apparently next to nothing. The decision on whether to continue with the submarine project is scheduled to be made within the coming days. David 'Ivri, Defense Ministry director general, this evening warned that an 80 million shekel cut in the defense budget would lead to the dismissal of up to 700 defense industries employees. Our military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports on the defense establishment's reaction to the proposed budget cuts:

The defense establishment tonight embarked on another battle for the defense budget. A senior Army officer remarked, however, that now is too late to react, and that a hue and cry should already have been raised over the past two years, during which there was no full compensation for the costs of the intifadah. Today, the gap between outlays for the intifadah over the past three years and the compensation doled out by the Finance Ministry totals 800 million shekels. This gap, combined with consecutive budget cuts since 1984, has led to a drop of 2 billion shekels in the Defense Ministry's budget—in other words, a drop of up to 20 percent from state sources. The chief of staff warned that the latest cutback would hurt not just the level of training, the Army's stockpiles, or expenditures related to the intifadah, but will impinge on the budget designated for the defense industries. Shomron asserted that there would be no cutbacks in the order of battle; any additional reduction would weaken our deterrence capability. We are not talking about the actual danger of war today, the chief of staff continued, but the possibility of war breaking out in the long run is increasing. Shomron pointed out that Iraqi missiles are situated 600 km from Israel, and that Iraqi military centers are 1,000 km from Israel—and this is a great difference.

While on the subject of Saddam Husayn: An Israeli Army officer recently gave a graphologist a sample of the Iraqi president's handwriting without telling him whose it was. The graphologist said that this was the handwriting of a violent man who is a quick study and who makes decisions swiftly. For God's sake, the graphologist added—hospitalize him at once! He constitutes a public danger! Perhaps Defense Minister Arens should bring the graphologist's opinion to the next cabinet session.

We interviewed David 'Ivri, the director general of the Defense Ministry, this evening on the cuts in the defense budget:

[Begin recording] [Shlonsky] Defense Ministry Director General 'Ivri, why is it that such strident opposition was expressed only now, when the defense budget has been slashed annually for several years already? Does a cut of $40 million justify such indignation?

['Ivri] I think that the very fact that this cut comes as the continuation of a process, during which we had believed that peace with Egypt, the Iran-Iraq war which was in progress [changes thought], this process has undergone a change on two fronts: The first is the intifadah, which consumes a large amount of money; the second is the Iran-Iraq war. Iraq has turned out to be an even greater threat than we had expected when our budget was tightened five years ago. The threat is composed of three main components: a huge army which does not have any purpose and is looking for objectives; nonconventional weapons boasting sophistications beyond those we envisioned five years ago; and cooperation between Iraq and Jordan. More recently, there have been explicit threats by the Iraqi president. I think that no defense establishment can afford to ignore such threats—even if it cannot

estimate their reality—and must prepare itself to offer the best possible response. The question that will always be asked—and it is a legitimate question—is whether we do not today already have answers. We do have partial answers, but you must find the answer for more and more complicated problems every day. No weapon can offer a 100 percent solution, but you must try to improve your capacity to react. That is why we raised a cry today, and I think we should demand a budget increase.

[Shlonsky] Did you wake up too late?

['Ivri] No. I think we should even prepare ourselves for budgetary increments if we want to be able to offer a serious response to the threats that exist today. [end recording]

Two 'Terrorists' Killed by Navy Off Lebanon Coast

TA0108042990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] An Israel Navy Dabur-class patrol boat early this morning destroyed a small boat with two terrorists on board. The two terrorists were killed, and there were no Israeli casualties. The incident took place off the south Lebanese coast.

Palestinian 'Terrorists' Said Training in Libya

TA0108083790 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Aug 90 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Palestinians from the territories who join terrorist organizations go to Libya for training and return to the territories via the Jordan River bridges. This was reported by reliable sources.

They claim that the terrorist organizations in the territories exploit the "summer visits" and the Jordan River bridge crossings, or reach Libya via Europe. They undergo several weeks of military training in the Libyan Army's training camps.

It was reported that there are presently hundreds of Palestinian terrorists in Libya. They are encouraged by al-Qadhdhafi, who provides them with large sums of money. It was also reported that although al-Qadhdhafi has refrained from endorsing attacks in Europe or against U.S. targets, his army trains Palestinian students studying in Europe who are later sent to Lebanon.

Ex-Deportees Inclusion in Cairo Talks Rejected

TA3107121890 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Jul 90 p 3

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] On the eve of the foreign minister's visit to Washington, senior Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem raised the possibility of including two deportees who were allowed to return in the early 1980's—Nadim Zarru from Ramallah and a member of the al-Natshah family from Hebron—in the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks. The political level categorically rejected the proposal.

[A report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar on page A4 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 31 July notes that "Foreign Minister David Levi is earnestly working on the formulation of new proposals in anticipation of his meeting next week with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Among other things, Levi is working on a formula that would enable the inclusion of deportees who would be allowed to return to the territories as part of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with Israel." The report goes on to say that "Levi is determined to object to the inclusion of East Jerusalem inhabitants in the delegation, even if they have a permanent domicile in the West Bank."]

High-level political circles are concerned about the foreign minister's visit to Washington next week because of what they see as a lack of trust between the United States and Israel. That is why various proposals are now being reviewed in order to find a formula acceptable to both countries. This formula would be included in a political memorandum of understanding which the Americans would give to Israel. In the memorandum, the United States would be asked to accept Israel's demand that a decision to include deportees in the delegation would not constitute recognition of their "right of return." It would object to repartitioning Jerusalem, the PLO's participation in the talks, and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Ben-Aharon on Policy Toward Arabs, PLO, U.S.

TA2707110090 Tel Aviv DAVAR (DVAR HASHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew 27 Jul 90 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Yisra'el Landers; first paragraph is Landers' introduction; date and place not given]

[Text] Yosef Ben-Aharon believes it is a mistake to use territorial criteria when making assessments about radical attitudes and about chances for progress toward an arrangement. "We were victims of the brainwashing of the Arabs and their supporters, who made us gauge the prospects for a modus vivendi with our neighbors primarily by territorial factors; this is an erroneous approach. We should have told them from the outset: 'We do not discuss territory.'" He complains that in signing the agreement with Egypt, Israel reinforced the approach of peace being contingent on territorial compromise. "We should have held on to a patch of Sinai, even a small one, for a long time—because this act would have had a symbolic significance. I myself would have also insisted on a permanent Israeli-Jewish presence in the Sinai constituting an attempt at possible coexistence under peaceful conditions. If some day Israel gives up a part of Judaea and Samaria—to which I object—it must

not dismantle settlements, as was done in the Sinai. Ceding territories and clearing them of Jewish presence would mean suicide for us.

[Landers] Why? This could reduce friction.

[Ben-Aharon] In my opinion, the Arabs will be tested by their willingness to live together in equality and peaceful coexistence in this country and out of it. The conflict between us has created a situation in which we are surrounded by an Arab world almost entirely devoid of Jews. This world views the State of Israel as a hostile island that should be extirpated. I will have to know that the Arab world's hostility toward me has vanished, and the real test of this will be through coexistence on the human level. A Jew will live in peace and security next to an Arab—not through the power of the Jewish sword that is there to protect him, but because the Arab will have decided he does not wish to fight the Jew and that it is not worth his while. I hope that the barriers between us and Jordan will be removed; this would enable a Jordanian to cross without a passport into Israel, just as a Belgian crosses into France, and vice versa. In the same way, the Israeli will be able to cross into Jordan and, if necessary, even to live in Amman. In peaceful conditions, this can be achieved even if the Jewish population is separated from the Arab and if there are no Jewish settlements under Arab sovereignty. Conversely, if the populations undergo a process of separation caused by our folding our cards, by a dwindling Israeli sovereignty and presence, the Arabs will view this as a modern version of the Crusader realm which kept shrinking until it disappeared.

[Landers] The intifadah has been going on for over two and a half years. Do you believe it can be terminated through military means?

[Ben-Aharon] Not exclusively through military means. I think we should fight it through action combining various measures, including administrative steps and more efficient administration, propaganda, and education. We do not have enough people capable of talking with influential residents of Judaea and Samaria and of convincing them that they can accept our offers without any detriment to their honor, status, or prospects of realizing their ambitions.

[Landers] We do have enough Arab affairs experts who could explain that; perhaps it is the Arabs who simply do not want to listen to you.

[Ben-Aharon] I do not think we have done enough in that direction, and it does not seem to me that we have enough people. You should count the number of people who have dealt with the intifadah and its consequences and see how many of them speak Arabic and know their way around the issue. We have been confronting only the violent aspects of the intifadah, when its political, administrative, and psychological aspects are almost absolutely open for the various terror organizations. Political subversion started years before the intifadah ever broke out.

[Landers] What do you suggest doing against the political subversion?

[Ben-Aharon] In the territories there are social, welfare, professional, and womens organizations operating under instructions of and financed by the PLO. I would suggest that these organizations be outlawed, and that organizations opposing the PLO be assisted. I also believe that an examination should be made into the possibility of legally closing those Arab newspapers that clearly could not survive without PLO allocations.

[Landers] Has the PLO not changed its attitude to Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] There have definitely been changes on the tactical level, but the basic attitude to Israel's existence has not changed.

[Landers] Do you believe it is possible to find Palestinian representatives in the territories who would agree to negotiate with Israel without PLO consent?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, yes, but this requires a lot of hard work. Those who are potential candidates do not believe that Israel would defend them, and they are scared of the dagger or bullet of the terrorist 'Arafat would send to assassinate them. If we conduct the propaganda campaign I have mentioned, and if the Egyptians and Americans are convinced that there will be no arrangement if the PLO is incorporated in the process—not now, not ever—then there is a chance.

[Landers] Will the residents of the territories accept forever the status of autonomy without political sovereignty?

[Ben-Aharon] We are not asking them to agree to any permanent arrangement. Israeli governments have pledged to follow the script of the Camp David accords, which oblige us to negotiate the permanent status at a later stage. That is why we can tell the Arabs: You have nothing to lose. You are offered something you can take without giving up your demands about the final arrangement. All you are asked in return is to cooperate with us—now and through the interim stages—and, naturally, stop the violence.

[Landers] Even if the Camp David script comes true, do you believe that this future autonomy will not turn into a Palestinian state?

[Ben-Aharon] Neither of us know. We do not know what kind of government will lead Israel when we reach this stage, or what will be the cumulative effect of the implementation of earlier stages of the script and the political process.

[Landers] Syrian President al-Asad has responded to the prime minister's call and announced his agreement to negotiate an arrangement. What are the possible guidelines for such an arrangement?

[Ben-Aharon] The question is premature, and I cannot refer to it. All I am saying is that we must not subordinate ourselves to the concept of placing the territorial

aspect above and beyond everything else and to examining the chances to advance toward an arrangement according to our willingness to give up territory.

[Landers] To what extent have personal considerations influenced the chilly attitude of the Bush administration toward Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] Personal considerations play an important role in relations with foreign elements, mainly with countries, where authority is in the hands of a single person—as is the case of the presidential regime in the United States. Nevertheless, this is a marginal element influencing bilateral relations, because if there is an interest in maintaining good relations, politicians know how to ignore the characteristics of the other side they do not like.

[Landers] Are you worried by the erosion in support for Israel in the U.S. Congress and public opinion?

[Ben-Aharon] I am not at all certain that this erosion, often mentioned in the Israeli and U.S. media, does exist. Attitudes toward countries, including Israel, do not change as frequently or as significantly as it may appear in public opinion polls. Furthermore, recent public opinion polls do not indicate an erosion in sympathy for Israel, rather they note a rise in sympathy for the Palestinians; the one does not necessarily preclude the other. To people in the street, the Palestinian appears to be the underdog, and they want to give him something. Still, the U.S. public maintains some sort of identification with Israel as a country which is small, free, democratic, surrounded by enemies, and with a close link to the United States. I do not believe this image will change, unless extreme circumstances, which are hard for me to imagine, occur. At the same time I do not want to tell you that I am not concerned. Events in the intifadah and pictures of soldiers chasing children have somewhat eroded our status. We must not disregard even the slightest change in public opinion, and we must garner the support of all our friends and confront the persistent attempts of our enemies to portray us as "bad guys." What is being done in that respect is not enough.

[Landers] Do you accept the assessment that if the political freeze continues, the U.S. Administration will disengage itself from the conflict and allow the sides to "stew in their own juices?"

[Ben-Aharon] I do not accept that. President Bush has said that he is not pulling away from the issue, and objectively speaking, the United States cannot do that and leave a vacuum. That is why I believe that U.S. involvement will continue, as will the attempts to apply pressure on us as expressed, among other things, in talk about an international conference. As is well known, Israel opposes such a conference and will not attend it even if it includes only the two superpowers.

[Landers] What other kinds of pressure can the U.S. Administration employ? Perhaps aid cuts?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not have a catalogue of U.S. potential steps. I do not think aid will be cut, because its economic portion is for repaying debts and the defense portion is mostly spent on procurement from the United States.

[Landers] From the U.S. point of view, has Israel lost some of its importance now that the Cold War is over?

[Ben-Aharon] Israel's status has changed, but its strategic importance has not deteriorated. All levels of the U.S. Administration, including General Powell who recently visited here, tell us that Israel's importance has not lessened. And they are not saying that just to make us happy.

[Landers] What should we do to improve our relations with the administration?

[Ben-Aharon] We should talk to them honestly, sincerely, and clearly. Even if they do not like the tune, because it is not something they have heard before, if they are convinced that this is our determined and uncompromising position, they will cooperate.

Soviet Official on Tarasov Visit, Mideast Policy

JN0108082790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Aug 90 p 24

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—Gennadiy Tarasov, assistant Soviet deputy foreign minister for Middle Eastern affairs, left Amman for Cairo yesterday after a three-day visit to Jordan. A responsible Soviet source at the Soviet Embassy in Amman affirmed that the visit was an advisory one and that Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Tarasov consulted on a number of issues pertaining to peace in the Middle East, as well as relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promote them.

Vasiliy Perezovskiy [name as published], Soviet charge d'affaires at the Soviet Embassy in Amman, described these consultations as successful, noting that they indicated similar trends in assessing the situation in the Middle East and ways of bringing about a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union was also discussed, he said.

Perezovskiy denied the existence of any new Soviet initiative to solve the Middle East problem but said there was certainly a plan to develop the Soviet initiative, which was launched by Eduard Shevardnadze from Cairo during his visit to the Middle East last February.

Shevardnadze had stressed in that initiative that Israel has no right to deprive the Palestinian people of their freedom and that, by objecting to the Palestinian right to self-determination, Israel does not strengthen its security but undermines it.

He also said: Obstacles to a settlement in the Middle East can be overcome only if the principle of the balance of interests is recognized as the only acceptable principle for relations among states and that the balance of power will never provide security. He added that Middle East security does not only concern Israel but also its neighbors, including the Palestinians, to the same degree.

He then called for closing the Middle East region, making it a nuclear and chemical weapons-free zone, and establishing weapons-free zones in it. He added that the current situation is unacceptable to the Palestinians, Israelis, and other sides, stressing that the international peace conference will provide an opportunity to achieve a historic solution between the Arabs and Israelis.

Cabinet Approves Military Exemption Guidelines

JN3107175290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers has approved the guidelines concerning the exemption of Jordanian expatriates and their sons from military and reserve service. These guidelines stipulate that eligible expatriates and their sons not working for official quarters and wishing to be exempted from military service must pay a lump sum of $6,000 before 31 December 1990. The guidelines stipulate that this charge should be paid to the order of the minister of finance either directly to the Finance Ministry or through Jordanian diplomatic or consular missions abroad in cash or by certified check or money order. The guidelines also stipulate that eligible persons who obtain employment contracts outside the Kingdom after the issuance of these guidelines will be exempted from military service if they pay the specified charge. [In a similar report, Amman JORDAN TIMES in English on 31 July, page 1, notes that the fee was reduced from the initially proposed $10,000 because preliminary studies showed that "only five per cent" of eligible Jordanians were able to pay that sum.]

Arab Expert Predicts Oil Crisis in 1990's

JN2907125790 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1816 GMT 28 Jul

[Interview with Dr. Mamduh Salamah, "a Jordanian national, resident in London, an oil economist by profession, and also works as consultant with the World Bank," by Rami Khuri in the weekly feature "Encounter"; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Dr. Salamah, welcome to "Encounter."

[Salamah] Thank you.

[Khuri] We are going to talk to you tonight about oil, the global oil situation, the trends in the world and the Middle East, and the political implications. We have just passed through almost two decades of quite major developments in the oil market starting in 74. And you have just written a book, "Is a Third Oil Crisis Inevitable," that has just come out, a book published in London. And, we would like to talk to you about basically the thesis that you put forward in the book about the inevitability of a third oil crisis. So, could you give us initially a summary of your main thesis and then we will get into the details of it.

[Salamah] The thesis that there will be an oil crisis by 1995 is based on various factors. This thesis was based on three years' research and one important thing about is that the global oil demand is increasing, particularly after the conservation years when oil demand went down. Nowadays, we are expecting that global oil demand will increase between 2 to 2 ½ percent between now and the turn of the century.

[Khuri] Two percent per year?

[Salamah] Two percent per year. In Europe, Japan, and the United States the average annual increase will be around 2 to 2.7 percent, while in the Pacific rim countries like Japan, [as heard] Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand, it is growing already at an annual rate of 10 to 12 percent. Even in the less developed countries of Africa and Asia, the growth is exceeding the 10 percent as well. So that is the global trend for oil.

[Khuri] And this trend you would expect to be maintained throughout the decade of the nineties?

[Slamah] Definitely, and, possibly for the next 20 years of the next century as well. The question is, by 1995 you will see that supplies and demand will be in a precarious situation. So, any political event or any economic event could affect the supply side and the demand side. When you look around about new oil resources, you can never expect now to find or to discover oil resources as big as Saudi Arabia, or as the North Sea, or as Alaska. Furthermore, if you look at the non-OPEC countries, and in this way I include the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, and Mexico, their oil production has peaked already.

[Khuri] All of them?

[Salamah] All of them. For instance, if you look at Alaska, the latest statistical reports show that oil production has declined from 1 million barrels a day to 800,000 barrels a day. If you look at the North Sea, the UK side of the North Sea, Britain's oil production peaked in 1985 when they produced 2.7 million barrels. They were a major exporter. Nowadays, Britain is hardly able to produce 1.8 million barrels a day. When you know that their consumption is 1.7 million, that leaves around 100,000 barrels for export. This means also that by 1995, Britain will be doing its utmost to maintain oil self-sufficiency. Maybe with a lot of investment, they might maintain it up to the end of the century. You look at China, the World Bank report says that if they are going to maintain an economic growth of 3 and ½ percent to 4 percent in the next few years, they have to import oil. That report was written in 1983. They are importing oil now. And, if they are going to discover new resources in the China Sea offshore exploration, it is estimated they have to spend $1 billion annually and there is no guarantee that there will be commercial quantities after that expenditure. You look at Mexico, which is a major oil producer, because of increased domestic consumption they reached the limit of their production ceiling. Their exports are declining. So, when you look around, you will find the non-OPEC countries are not able to maintain even the current production. Consequently, their capacity has been saturated.

[Khuri] While their demand is rising.

[Salamah] While their demand is rising. You look at the OPEC countries, they have extra capacity. And, that is the hope that the growing oil demand in the world will be met from increases in OPEC production.

[Khuri] Before we get to that point in the implications of that, I would like to ask you about non-oil sources. Because I remember back in the mid-seventies and late seventies after the first oil crisis—it is an oil crisis from the Western perspective, from our perspective it is not a crisis at all; it is a restitution of justice in terms of international commodity prices—but when the first big rise in the price of oil took place in '74, it took the Western world three or four years to realize the long-term implications and then to start investing on alternative sources of energy—nuclear energy, solar, wind, shale oil, biomass; all of these things. What is the state of the alternative sources of energy in the world now based on your research, and what are the implications for oil producers?

[Salamah] That is a very interesting question. Because, after the first oil crisis in 1973, which took the Western economies by surprise, they embarked on conservation, and they did an excellent job on it. And, they also laid the grounds for mega-projects to develop synthetic oil from coal and to use shale, like in Canada, reserves to produce oil. It went very well until the prices of oil started to decline due to the oil glut.

[Khuri] This was the early eighties.

[Salamah] This was the early eighties. Because the price of oil reached its climax after the second oil crisis in 1979.

[Khuri] It reached $35 a barrel.

[Salamah] In fact, in the spot market in Rotterdam, it reached $40 a barrel. After that, the oil glut drove the price down. Now, when the price went down, most of the Western economies shelved most of the projects they embarked on, like synthetic oil as well as nuclear energy, as well as solar energy. And, with that in mind, the demand of oil started to grow.

[Khuri] Started to rise.

[Salamah] Yes, started to rise. Of course, a country like France embarked on nuclear energy. And nowadays, France is generating 80 percent of its electricity from nuclear energy, which is a tremendous achievement. Nuclear energy is a very good source of energy. I call it a necessary evil, because of the radioactive wastes and because of incidents like Chernobyl in the Soviet Union and the Three-Mile Island, I think in '79, in the United States. However, it is a necessary evil, but now technology is moving forward. Instead of nuclear fission, we are moving toward nuclear fusion, which means you will have hardly any radioactive wastes and that will be the technology which will replace the current nuclear fission.

[Khuri] But fusion has not been perfected yet to the stage where....

[Salamah, interrupting] It has not, but scientists are focusing their attention on it. And, I think in the next 10 years we will have it operating and possibly replacing nuclear fission. There is potential for solar energy as well as for wind power. But of course solar energy like you talk about Tokyo now. There, 1.5 million houses are being heated by solar energy. I have figures also to support that in California 20 percent of electricity for the whole of California is generated by solar power. So, these are good potential outlets, but they can never replace oil. They will supplement oil and fossil fuels, but they can never substitute them.

[Khuri] Both wind and solar?

[Salamah) Exactly. Then you talk about gas. Recent technology in gas, what you call combined cycle technology, has made gas more cost effective than before. The combined cycle technology amounts to the following: You use gas to drive gas turbines to generate electricity. In doing that, you are generating heat, which can be harnessed to drive steam turbines. So, from the same volume of gas, you are getting double the quantity of electricity.

[Khuri] So it is much more efficient use of gas.

[Salamah] It is more efficient, less pollutant than oil and coal, and very cost effective. It is being tested now in Japan and in certain European countries and also in the United States. So, it will take off eventually.

[Khuri] This reminds me of the general trend in the Western world, particularly in, well, Europe and the United States and North America, of tremendous increases in the efficiency of energy use and also the development of new technologies. If you look at automobiles in the U.S. now, they are much more energy efficient, and housing in terms of heating and cooling. All of this work in the last 15 years in the West, certainly this has had an impact on reducing the absolute level of per capita demand for energy. Has it not?

[Salamah] To some extent, yes. But don't forget that you are talking here about Western economies. I am talking about global economies, where for instance in Africa conservation might not be a keynote there, neither in the Soviet Union or East Europe. So, we are talking about the average global increase in domestic consumption of energy in general. And, the move in the Soviet Union and East Europe from centrally-planned economies to free market economies, it will increase the consumption of oil, simply because people under a free market economy would expect a better standard of living.

[Khuri] And would be willing to pay for services and goods.

[Salamah] And, they would be willing to pay for that service, yes naturally. And that is having a positive impact on the global oil consumption trend.

[Khuri] So, when you put all of these factors together, the scenario you anticipate would be continuous rise in demand for energy and oil around the world?

[Salamah] Yes.

[Khuri] Decline or static production by sources outside of OPEC. [sentence as heard] And, that leaves OPEC, which is predominantly Arab but not exclusively, that OPEC would become a much more important source of oil for the rest of the world by the mid-1990's?

[Salamah] Correct. I will go further than that. The non-OPEC countries, as I outlined at the start of the interview, have peaked. Their production has peaked now. They will be doing their utmost by investing as much as they can at least to maintain the current production level. But they will have no extra capacity. The OPEC countries have the extra capacity. And, I single out four Arab countries who dominate OPEC. For instance, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and UAE will be contributing 30 percent to the oil demand in 1995. That is a great achievement.

[Khuri] Thirty percent of total OPEC production?

[Salamah] No, of total global oil demand. They will be supplying 30 percent to satisfy that demand. That gives them tremendous economic and political leverage, as you appreciate. But to do that, they need to invest. And, for instance, now OPEC countries are producing 23 to 24 million barrels a day.

[Khuri] But that will probably go down a little bit?

[Salamah] Possibly, but the trend is upward. And, even with 23 million barrels a day, they have a production capacity of 27 million. They leave that as a sort of safety margin. Now, the trend indicates that by 1995 they will be supplying more than 27 million barrels a day to the world, which means they must have an extra production capacity of 31 million barrels a day. Now, to do that jump from 27 to 31 million, they need, according to estimates by OPEC in Vienna, to spend around $60 billion. That is 46 percent of the total annual revenue of OPEC currently.

[Khuri] And this would raise production capacity to around 31 million barrels a day?

[Salamah] It will give them the production capacity of 31, but they will still be producing 27 to maintain a safety margin. Now, one would ask: Would OPEC countries be prepared to spend that amount of money without investment from the major oil consumers like the United States, Japan, and Europe? They would be fools to spend that amount of money. They need a stake from Western investment; in other words they can contribute $30 billion investment and the West can contribute $30 billion. This means that they jointly will have a stake in maintaining oil supplies and solid oil demand from the West.

[Khuri] This will be in keeping with the perception that has, I think, gained acceptance around the world in the last 10 years or so, which is that the oil producers and the oil consumers really have to cooperate together. The era of confrontation is not in the interest of either side in the long run.

[Salamah] Yes, that is absolutely right. Somebody mentioned that the eighties were the era of confrontation between OPEC producers and consumers. Let us hope that the 1990's will be the era of cooperation. There is no other way.

[Khuri] Because in the seventies, when the first big oil price increase took place and the Arabs used oil as a

political weapon after the '73 war, then the West, Kissinger and his boys, responded with setting up the International Energy Agency. And, this was seen as the club of the major oil importers to confront OPEC. But it seems now that the realization by both sides is that really the massive amount of investment required to deal with the oil energy needs, plus the potential instability, if suddenly you had oil supplies cut off, some of these Western industrial societies would have a very difficult time. And also oil producers themselves cannot continue to have erratic annual fluctuations. Small countries like Oman in 1986, they had a very difficult time when suddenly oil income dropped by 20 or 30 percent.

[Salamah] Yes, all of them, all the OPEC countries, including Saudi Arabia and Iraq, all the producers were affected by the drop in price. However, the keynote will be, as I said, cooperation between them and working a price which is acceptable to the producers and workable for the major consumers, without causing recession in world economy or employment.

[Khuri] What do you see that price as being?

[Salamah] Well, there has been talk recently about Iraq advocating $25 a barrel. I think there is room for moving to a price of 20 to 25, even $25 a barrel can be absorbed by the major consumers, Japan, the United States, and Europe without any adverse effects on their economy. And that price will also give the OPEC producers enough income to be more inclined to invest in the oil production facilities. So, I think it is a good price.

[Khuri] You don't see the supply and demand balance in the mid-1990's pushing the price back up to 35 or 40?

[Salamah] Well, I wouldn't rule it out. In fact, there is a study by Harvard University which predicted a price of oil of up to $50. That, I think, would be damaging to the world economy.

[Khuri] It would set off an inflationary cycle again?

[Salamah] Not only that, it will cause recession, inflationary cycle, balance of payments deficit, unemployment, and at the same time it will make the major economies go at full blast for investing in alternative sources of energy. Now, we don't want that to happen. We want to sell our oil as well. We don't want it under the sands. But at the same time, we want to benefit from it politically and economically. So, one way of doing that is cooperating and reaching a workable price which is acceptable to both sides.

[Khuri] The implications of that for oil as a political weapon are, if you have a cooperation system established with interlocking investments with the Western industrial countries investing in production facilities and the producing countries, like Kuwait for instance, investing in downstream facilities like refineries and retail gasoline outlets; if you lock the producers and the consumers into mutual beneficial network of economic and political interests that would probably nullify the potential for the oil producers, whether Arabs or non-Arabs, to use oil as a political weapon. What is your thinking about that?

[Salamah] Not really. I mean, if you look at the first oil crisis, when the Arab countries led by Saudi Arabia announced an embargo against the United States, Aramco was in full control of oil exploration and production in Saudi Arabia. That didn't stop Saudi Arabia imposing the embargo and stopping supplies to the United States. You are talking now about the investments in the expansion of the oil production facilities, that expansion might not be government to government. It might be major oil companies and financial groups. But when it comes to politics, it is hard to separate politics from economics. If you have a valid case, you will use any weapon to defend it. This time, we don't have to threaten the oil weapon. The world knows that we have the greatest reserves on earth and that should the Arab members of OPEC like Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, and UAE decide just to reduce their production by 10 percent, they will upset the balance between supplies and demand and that will cause panic in the world market and that will exert itself as a political leverage.

[Khuri] So you are talking about the scenario in which OPEC would not necessarily have to overtly come out and say we are not selling oil to the United States or to England or to whoever we happen to be angry against, but they might just say well for technical reasons we have dropped production 10 percent for three months?

[Salamah] Correct. That is what the ex-U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger said few years ago at the Congress. He said: This time the Arabs might not use the oil as a weapon. It is enough for them to hint about oil supplies and it will work for them. Luckily, whether we use it well or not, nature has given us that tremendous resource which will work for us, whether we like it or not, hopefully.

[Khuri] How do you see OPEC in the wake of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war and the apparent forward movement again in permanent Iraq-Iran peace negotiations. Iraq and Iran are two of the major producers and two of the most politically dynamic actors in the oil world. Do you see a post-war period in which Iran and the Arabs are working more in harmony in oil circles will be an important factor for price stability and price increases?

[Salamah] Absolutely, without any shadow of doubt. Any accommodation between Iraq and Iran will have a positive impact on OPEC and that will stabilize the price worldwide. Because Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iran can do their utmost to make sure that other OPEC members will abide by their production ceilings and that is what the price of oil is all about. I mean, there is no need for us to cause another oil glut. I don't see any benefit to the Arab countries or to the OPEC countries. Of course, the benefit will be to Western economies. But as I said, Western economies are dynamic enough they can absorb a price of up to $25 a barrel. Why are we glutting the market with oil to cause the price to go to $14?

[Salamah] Well, this is the narrow interest of individual countries who feel they need extra cash in the short run.

[Salamah] That is why any cooperation between the major producers in OPEC will force these countries to limit or to abide by their production ceiling and that can only have one good benefit to the OPEC members, including the Arab members, to the stability of the price in the world market, and to adjustment by the world economies to the prospects of higher oil prices where they can gradually adjust themselves rather than be faced, in a few years time, by a shot [as heard] in price to $40 or $50 as it happened in the spot market in 1979.

[Khuri] If we are entering a period in the early mid-1990's of stable and rising prices perhaps and a growing importance for OPEC producers in the world, this is likely to mean an increase in total national income to the oil-producers. What do you think are the implications and terms of development plans, financial reserves, foreign investments, and economic revitalization in the Middle East, and particularly in the wake of the lessons of have learned in the last 15 years?

[Salamah] In a nutshell, the oil-producers, particularly the Arab oil-producers, will benefit from a higher price of oil, as I said, with its impact on their ability to invest in expanding the production facilities, second, on their ability to improve standards of living of their people, and third, we are facing major economic problems now. There is population increase, there are water shortages. We have abundant gas and oil reserve eventually. It is not all doom and gloom. We can use that to desalinate sea water if it comes to the crunch, rather than sell oil and gas at low prices, use them to desalinate sea water and irrigate your country and provide water for drinking. That will have some political implication, because if you have enough water resources to deal with, it puts away the prospects or the explosive prospects of war over water in the future, which is a threat that is growing now. I mean you can see there are problems, and I need not mention them but we have rumors about the Nile between Ethiopia and Sudan and Egypt. We have also the Tigris between Syria, Iraq, and Turkey, there is al-Litani between Lebanon and Israel, there is al-Yarmuk between Jordan, Syria, and Israel. All these problems can be sorted out. But you need a long-term policy, and to some extent, if I may add, family planning, long-term family planning, to curb the population explosion, which is depleting most of the water resource and the industrialization. You have to be selective how you use your water other than drinking. If I find that I am going to irrigate this land and spent most of my water resources on it when I can import food cheaper, I will import it cheaper and save the water for something more economical. So, that is the way economist will be juggling with the problem to find a way for it.

[Khuri] Because we enter the 1990's in quite a different situation than we entered the mid-seventies and the early-eighties, if we can anticipate a fresh flow of income coming into the oil-producing countries, which will have an impact on the whole Middle East region. We deal now with countries that have debts, even the oil-producers are drawing down their reserves and borrowing internationally. We have much larger populations, our food requirements are greater, and social services. So, it is not a question like in the early and the mid-seventies that was building infrastructure. Now it is to sustain growing economies which are much more sophisticated.

[Salamah] Yes, the infrastructure is already there. As you said, we need to sustain the economic growth. And to do that we need a bigger income and we need a lot of investment. That is very true.

[Khuri] Well, Dr. Mamduh Salamah, thank you very much for being with us. It has been a pleasure and we will meet again, God willing, in a few years and see how your prognosis came up.

[Salamah] It is my pleasure. Thank you very much.

[Khuri] Thank you.

Al-Hirawi Addresses Soldiers on Army Day

NC3107200590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Address by President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the eve of Army Day, on 31 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] O soldiers: It is the custom on this day that I should stand among you to confer the swords of right and loyalty on the graduating officers. However, your establishment, like the homeland, has witnessed an exceptional situation which has not preserved the magic of custom, the lessons of the occasion, or the basic principles undament of the establishment. You are all called upon to take a responsible stand which fulfills the call of duty, asserts the firmness of your discipline, and safeguards the honor of your establishment. Obey your legitimate command and be loyal to your oath wherever you may be. Your Army is one; it comes from all Lebanon and belongs to all Lebanon. I look forward to seeing it safeguard the state's sovereignty and prestige, protect the citizen's freedom and rights, defend the homeland's independence, and restore their national purity to the occupied areas in the south.

Your history has proven that you are solid in resisting all whims. Return to your original character and reject any fait accompli which might be imposed on you. Your unity stems from the unity of the homeland. Do not go against your homeland. Eagerness to safeguard the unity of the establishment does not permit the acceptance of a situation which will lead to your division.

We are against compromising the Army's unity. We are also against any phenomenon that results in using the Army against the people, state, and the Army itself. We will not be merciful toward anyone who undermines the principles and the role of the Army. The people cherish an Army which will oppose the aggressor in order to protect the innocent, oppose the ambitious in order to defend what is right, and oppose deviation in order to safeguard values.

O soldiers: Your perfection lies in your cohesion as one solid unit honoring the establishment, and in your self-sacrifices and loyalty to the homeland. I promise you that your state will not violate its pledge to you as long as you do not violate your loyalty to it. The state will withhold nothing from your establishment until the Army again becomes the shield of all the homeland and the support of all the people.

O Lebanese: I have spent nights and days with you, experiencing your pains and anxieties. However, my faith in you and in Lebanon has prompted me to choose the path of logic and dialogue. Bloodshed will lead to more bloodshed and destruction and violence will only lead to more violence and exhaustion. I have called upon you to unite. I have called upon you to rise above transient sensitivities and narrow calculations. I have called upon you to meet and agree. I have called upon you to create from Lebanon a homeland of heroes and not a land of victims. The blood which has been spilled will not be in vain if we know how to learn the lessons and find our way to salvation.

We have moved in every direction and we provided opportunities for all. We strove not to exclude anyone from participating in the solution process because Lebanon is the responsibility of all its sons. How is it possible for all brothers and friends to help us when there are still some in the country who follow their personal whims at the expense of national salvation? The efforts have been fruitful. There has been international recognition and popular and national acknowledgement of legitimacy. What referendum could be more significant and more expressive than the dispersion of the Lebanese to all parts of the world to escape chaos, disgrace, political change, and cheap death? They have deserted their homes, villages, and cities and left their land and dreams to express their rejection of the fait accompli. We looked forward to seeing all the Lebanese joining the process of peace and reconstruction. However, Lebanon will not wait for anyone who lags behind. There can be no solution outside legitimacy or at its expense. A solution can come only through legitimacy and its backing and support. Why do we disagree? The homeland is exposed to storms. What justifies all this bleeding and destruction? What goal justifies all this displacement and catastrophe? The extremism of a group leads the enemies of Lebanon to single out the homeland as a target. A group's isolation of itself inside its own area has led to its displacement and destruction. No faction can act independently regarding the future of Lebanon. We are not only against violence but also against its repercussions, which threaten the citizens' steadfastness, and its effects on the state's influence. The silence of the gun is not the whole solution. It is impermissible to keep quiet about accepting the silence of the gun in return for accepting the fait accompli.

The soaring cost of living, weakness of the economy, halting of production, emigration of efficient persons and capital, closing of schools, and deterioration of educational standards are just as serious as the acts of crazy killing. It cannot be accepted that the fighting should be transferred from one area to another or from one group to another. We are against the self-destruction of our areas, resources, and homeland. We are all aware how grave and delicate this stage is. Why then the waiting?

Is not it enough to see part of the Lebanese South living under the humiliation of Israeli occupation? Do we have to turn other parts of the South into scorched earth and complicate its future at a time when a new wave of settlement is taking place? Is it not it enough that our domestic front is a bitter scene of fragmentation and deterioration, of procrastination and attrition aimed at undermining the country and plunging it into despair and helplessness?

No, I will not condone this. My hand is extended to all of you so that together we may launch a new phase of peace,

reconstruction, and development. With this in mind, the cabinet has issued a statement containing a program that would allow all of us to contribute to the step-by-step restoration of peace in this country. This cabinet's initiative opened the door once more for reconciliation in this country. Let us save Lebanon first and then cooperate in reform and reconstruction. Let us unite so that Lebanon may regain its strength and stand taller than its enemies. Otherwise, Lebanon will get weaker and its enemies will gain in strength.

The national accord agreement [signed in al-Ta'if] was aimed at rescuing the country from its whirlwind of wars and futile conflicts. That agreement aimed at ending the fragmentation of our cities and the humiliation of the crossing points that crop up within one district. That agreement aimed at saving you from the deteriorating social and economic situation in which the search for work and a productive role was becoming a frustrating ordeal. It is illogical that the Lebanese—who throughout history have been agents of progress in every land they inhabit—should now live in a country that is ravaged by war and lacks the simple services of water, electricity, housing, sanitation, telephone, and health.

This is not the Lebanon you or I know. The Lebanese cannot live without Lebanon. The Lebanese cannot live at the expense of Lebanon. It is my firm belief that, with the concerted efforts of all, the Lebanese can help us initiate a radical move toward solution. What is needed is an overall public effort. No citizen will be able to live in peace unless the whole country lives in peace. No group of Lebanese can enjoy security except as a part of a strong and capable state.

O Lebanese, leadership cannot be protected by one-upmanship; independence cannot be safeguarded by maneuvers, and patriotism cannot be measured by slogans. Lebanon is our common safeguard. Lebanon derives its strength from all of its sons and its areas and also from its government. No one can replace the state and no one can overcome the state.

O Lebanese, in the recent past we have been preoccupied with stopping the bloodshed and reviving the state's institutions. The coming phase will be one of reconstruction and development.

Lebanon will not be humbled. I have faith in this good people. We have seen them when the areas were opened to each other. This was an unblemished testimony to the nobility of coexistence and national coming together. We are not alone. The support accorded to your legitimate government by brothers and friends proves that Lebanon is stronger than all threats. I assured you yesterday that Lebanon will survive. Today I assure you that the state is coming. In this regard, I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Arab brothers for the effort they made and the care they took to promote the progress of a solution. I appreciate the perseverance of the higher Arab tripartite committee and the noble role of fraternal Syria. His excellency brother President Hafiz al-Asad is seeking, in concert with us, to close the file of the Lebanese crisis. I also extend my thanks to all our friends. I appreciate the assistance and support that is extended by influential countries to further the salvation process.

The establishment of an international fund to assist Lebanon demonstrates our Arab friends' faith in Lebanon and the world's confidence in Lebanon's permanence.

O Lebanese, I will remain with you to defend you and Lebanon and to restore unity, sovereignty, and dignity to you and to Lebanon. We will not be soft on those who have assailed the dignity of the state and the rights of the people. It is high time the state's institutions were returned to the state.

We plan to establish a center to deal with complaints and to examine rumors and the tendentious individuals who disseminate them. Now, after more than six decades, we have passed a law governing the procedures for putting presidents and ministers on trial in accordance with constitutional provisions and for defending the honor of office.

I realize that work cannot be done by itself. I also know that it is not permissible to assail the state or to require it, in its fragmented condition, to perform services beyond its capability. We must have intelligent planning and proper, honest implementation. We must also have accurate, comprehensive, and persevering work. We must seek to uproot corruption and modernize administration in order that all together we may build a model state—a state of right, justice, and development.

Lebanon needs all its sons, those residing in the country and those abroad, and all their abilities and skills.

Soldiers, we are entrusted with a major cause. We are entrusted with the salvation of a homeland, the rescuing of a people, and the building of a future. We are entrusted with the salvation of Lebanon. The salvation of Lebanon represents the redemption of ideals on the threshold of the 21st century—the ideals of coexistence, integration, and peace.

He who rejects reconciliation is against Lebanon, the state, and the Army. The unity of the national stand, symbolized by both the people and the Army, is capable of defiance and of raising a lofty, fluttering flag. I see the banners of salvation on your brows. The state leads through you. Every citizen who has the honor of belonging to Lebanon supports you. Long may you live, long live Lebanon.

Ministerial Sources on Action Against Violators

NC0108094890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] The president's Army Day speech yesterday and the measures the state will take against those who reject the peace process continue to be the focus of attention.

The newspaper AL-DIYAR cites ministerial sources as having said that there is a Syrian-Arab-American cover

for carrying out a swift military action. The paper adds that these sources have talked about convening a military meeting within the next 48 hours to approve measures that will consider all possibilities.

According to AL-DIYAR, the ministerial sources affirmed that Syria has clearly communicated to all those concerned its decision to remove its protection of anyone who rejects or obstructs the proposed plan for a solution and whoever confronts the legitimate authority and the Lebanese army by force in any area.

AL-DIYAR adds that the ministerial sources have told it that a clear decision has been made to adopt extremely negative measures against the ambassadors and diplomats who violate the government's decision to sever all relations with General 'Awn and that these measures could reach the point of expelling the violators and recalling the Lebanese ambassadors from the states concerned.

'Awn Reiterates Support for Cabinet Initiative

Al-Hirawi Speech Seen as 'Final Appeal'

NC0108112890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The newspaper AL-NAHAR says that observers have regarded President al-Hirawi's speech on Army Day yesterday as a final appeal for an understanding with General 'Awn. The observers wondered if this appeal involves a breathing space, pending the stand that is to be adopted by the Arab Tripartite Committee when it meets at the foreign minister level in Cairo either today or tomorrow.

Meanwhile, sources close to Gen. 'Awn have been reiterating that he has not said no to the Council of Ministers' initiative during his meeting with Arab Committee's envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, but that he said yes. [passage omitted]

'Awn Seeking Control of Fuel

NC3107171190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Our radio has learned that General Michel 'Awn has instructed his followers to take control of the available supplies of gasoline, gas, and other household provisions in his areas. 'Awn is attempting to make the citizens believe that the new government measures are directed against them. This has prompted the citizens living in his areas to rush to Kasrawan and Jubayl to purchase their daily requirements.

Addresses His Men on Army Day

NC0108061490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Speaking to his men on Army Day, Michel 'Awn said that distracting attention from a burning South by talking about a quiet Beirut is merely an obvious attempt to float an alleged government.

He added: To surround, famish, and force the people to submit to those who have appointed themselves governors is unacceptable. These amateurs, adventurers, and inefficient people will never be able to continue to drag you into their farce, traps, and the fatal predicaments resulting from their short sightedness or their involvement in the game of the grownups, 'Awn said.

Condemns Government Blockade

NC0108131990 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Speech by General Michel 'Awn before visiting delegations on occasion of Army Day at B'abda Palace on 1 Aug—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I do not accept, under any form whatsever, subservience to any one. We are [word indistinct] and comrades with everybody, but we are not subordinates. We seek friendship and fraternity with everyone, but we do not seek subservience. Let me remind [words indistinct], I am ready to step aside, but no one will take my signature on something compromising the sovereignty, identity, and basic rights of the Lebanese people. [passage omitted]

No matter what happens, it is impossible for the march that we started to stop or for anyone to stop it, because it is engraved in the hearts of children, who will continue it. Therefore, no blockade—whether it is a blockade on supplies, diplomatic, media, or any other kind of blockade—will achieve positive results. On the contrary, it will backfire on those who are imposing it, and they will bear the consequences.

I want to know what (?right) this so-called government has to impose a blockade on its people. Is it applying the laws and regulations? What laws and regulations? Are they not ashamed to say they are a signatory to the human rights convention? Are they not ashamed to oppose elections and at the same time claim they (?have) a free parliament? What kind of parliament is that which is 18 years old and which the majority of Lebanese were not involved in electing it? [words indistinct] What right do they have to ask the ambassadors not to get in touch with some Lebanese? This is against international convention, the Vienna Convention. They are not even adhering to this one. [passage omitted]

This is the era of collapse, thanks to this false regime as represented by the Salim al-Huss government, which made a deal with the militia [Lebanese Forces] against the free areas. They are free in the full sense of the word, not just in name, but in deeds. The militia made a deal with the government to besiege the army, the territories in which the laws are being applied, and the free Lebanese, who in their eyes are the only danger to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Iranian Embassy Officials Comment on Iqlim War

NC0108064190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Mohammad Jawad Zamanian has asserted that the Islamic Republic of Iran is eager to strengthen its relations with Lebanon. Following his meeting with Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin yesterday, Zamanian added: We discussed the issue of the ongoing fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah. We will continue to make efforts to stop the bloodshed and resolve the issue.

A responsible source in the Iranian Embassy in Beirut has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will support any solution that is acceptable to all parties, particularly the Amal Movement and Hizballah, so that the sedition and bloodshed and ongoing fighting can be stopped.

On the Lebanese Army's entry into Iqlim al-Tuffah, the source asserted that Iran regards this as an internal Lebanese matter in which it cannot interfere.

Fadlallah Urges End to Amal-Hizballah Fighting

NC0108131290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Hizballah called for a demonstration to mark the anniversary of 'Ashura'. Demonstrators this morning left from the Southern Suburb and assembled at Bi'r al-'Abd Mosque.

Addressing the demonstrators, 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called for closing the dossier of war in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He urged both the Amal Movement and Hizballah to end the sedition quickly because sooner or later they are bound to sit at the negotiating table. He asked: Why do we not end all of this killing, hatred, and animosity? What is the interest of Islam, Arabism, Lebanon, and the South in these hostilities?

He stressed that this war should be stopped because it has become a threat to all circles and to the jihad against Israel and global arrogance. He said everyone must move so that the firing will stop, dialogue and understanding will prevail, and all displaced people will return to their homes in Iqlim al-Tuffah, the Suburb, and the South, because the problem of the displaced and evicted people is a big and serious one.

Reportage Continues on Iqlim Al-Tuffah Fighting

Date Set for Casualty Evacuation

NC3107173790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] A state of extreme caution prevails in Iqlim al-Tuffah. This follows clashes which took place in the morning and afternoon on the hills overlooking Kafr Hatta, Kafr Bayt, Kafr Milki, and Jurnaya. REUTER has reported that more than 200 people have been killed and 400 injured in the latest bout of fighting in the area. It noted that 100 Palestinians were among the casualties. Citing medical sources, the agency said 50 corpses are still lying in the streets of Kafr Milki, many of them in a state of decomposition hastened by the heat of the sun.

Meanwhile, there have been active mediation efforts, particularly in an attempt to attain a truce that will permit Red Cross personnel to remove the dead and injured and provide some vital supplies for the villagers in the areas where the fighting raged and which were the targets of bombardment. A meeting was held this afternoon at the residence of Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, in Sidon. Representatives of Amal, Hizballah, and the Fatah Movement attended the meeting. After the meeting, Sa'd stated that efforts had been made which had produced a favorable response to the humanitarian appeal to consolidate the cease-fire and evacuate the dead and injured from the battleground. Consequently, he said, an announcement pertaining to such an evacuation will be made at 0730 tomorrow, Wednesday, following the approval of all the parties concerned with the Iqlim al-Tuffah incidents. He added that the evacuation of the casualties will then take place and at a later stage the necessary food supplies and medical aid will be provided to the citizens in the areas of the clashes.

Asked about the prisoners held by the warring parties, Sa'd said that this issue will be discussed with the parties concerned. He said that the International Committee of the Red Cross is planning to issue an appeal for a consolidation of the cease-fire as of 0700 tomorrow, so that it can then begin evacuating the casualties.

Red Cross Secures Cease-Fire

NC0108052990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has intensified its contacts with Amal Movement and Hizballah to achieve a security truce in order to evacuate the dead from Iqlim al-Tuffah. The ICRC has succeeded in achieving an agreement for a cease-fire effective at 0700 today to carry out its task.

Clashes Hinder Evacuation

NC0108104190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes between Amal and Hizballah have continued in Iqlim al-Tuffah in the wake of the violent security setback on the Kafr Milki and Jarju' combat lines this morning. The clashes have frustrated the decision to observe a truce that was reached during a meeting held at Engineer Mustafa Sa'd's house yesterday. Consequently, Red Cross convoys have not been able to enter the areas of the clashes to evacuate the casualties.

Nevertheless, contacts have continued on this matter. Eng. Sa'd chaired another meeting this morning, attended by representatives from Amal, Hizballah,

Fatah, and the Red Cross. However, there has been no change in the situation so far.

Sources have told our radio that a request was made to alter the priorities whereby the wounded would be evacuated first, and this has obstructed the implementaion of the agreement.

Meanwhile, Amal Movement has issued a statement accusing Hizballah of taking advantage of the initiative that Eng. Sa'd announced yesterday. The statement said that Hizballah made a desperate attempt to attack the positions held by the Amal Movement in Jarju' and Hamadah and Safiyat hills but was repulsed. The statement affirmed that Amal Movement is committed to Eng. Sa'd's initiative and to the state's decision to deploy the army in areas up to the borderline. Amal accused Hizballah of presenting new conditions other than those that were agreed upon yesterday.

On its part, Hizballah issued a statement accusing Amal of shelling its positions in Kafr Milki, Kafr Bayt, and Jurnaya.

Army Said To Deploy 'This Week'

NC0108052290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] KUNA has uncovered ongoing preparations to deploy a military force of the Lebanese Army in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Citing [Lebanese] military sources, the agency reports that the Army Command has given orders to deploy a battalion of between 400-600 soldiers supported with tanks and armored troops carriers in Iqlim al-Tuffah. KUNA notes that the military force is expected to deploy in the region later this week and that it has strict orders to return fire, regardless of its source.

The Kuwaiti agency also reports that 175 persons, including 15 civilians, have been killed, and 450 wounded since the beginning of the fighting. The agency adds that both the Amal Movement and Hizballah have lost 135 fighters each.

Inter-Palestinian Fighting in Sidon

NC0108051590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Our correspondent in Sidon reported a short while ago that clashes involving various types of weapons have been going on since 0655 this morning in the Jabal al-Halib district inside 'Ayn al-Hulwah, where the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Martyrs battalion is stationed. The battalion belongs to the Fatah movement and is led by Major Jamal Sulayman.

The causes of the clashes have not been determined yet. However, sources in the city of Sidon believe that the clashes are between Maj. Sulayman's group, which sympathizes with Muslim currents in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, on one side, and the pro-'Arafat Fatah, on the other.

Palestinian Clashes Continue

NC0108104490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Latest reports from 'Ayn al-Hulwah cite Palestinian sources as saying that continuous clashes are still raging between the pro-'Arafat Fatah and Fatah dissident Major Jamal Sulayman in Jabal al-Halib and the eastern areas of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

The sources report that 'Arafat's Fatah has taken control of a number of Sulayman's positions in Jabal al-Halib. Other sources say that Maj. Sulayman has moved with a number of his followers to one of 'Ayn al-Hulwah's neighborhoods.

According to preliminary reports, six people have been killed and 20 wounded.

Hafiz Al-Asad Delivers Army Day Message

JN0108105290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Aug 90

[President Hafiz al-Asad's message to the Army and the Armed Forces on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army published in JAYSH AL-SHA'B and AL-JUNDI AL-ARABI magazines; date not given.]

[Text] My brothers and sons in our brave Armed Forces, valiant officers, NCO's, and men: Each year we celebrate the first of August with pride and satisfaction over our Army's past achievements. We welcome a new year with determination to redouble efforts in all fields to achieve more strength for our country and nation. We celebrate the first of August because it is a symbol of a march bent on progress and success and aimed at victory in our struggle for the aims of our nation. Because of the values and principles you have been raised on, you are the soldiers of the homeland and the nation. You are loyal to the homeland and the nation and you are the guardians of the honor of the Army, as shown by your attitude, courage, and commitment to the principles embedded in your souls by our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. These principles have always been your guidance in your tasks, which you have always excelled in. Thus, you have proven in practice that our Armed Forces are undertaking their national and pan-Arab tasks with honor and courage. In the battlefields you have always proved that you are heroic fighters. You have raised the nation's head high with your bravery and martyrdom for the sake of victory. You have also performed your pan-Arab tasks excellently. Today, 45 years after the foundation of the Syrian Arab Army, we sincerely feel that continued success has always been the hallmark of our Army's march. Victory will remain the aim of this march.

On this occasion, I am delighted to sincerely salute you and cordially congratuate you on your holiday and also to inform you of the leadership's appreciation of your accomplishments last year in the fields of training, preparation, ability to absorb new weapons and equipment, and our pan-Arab achievements.

My brothers and sons in our brave Armed Forces, the first of August this year comes amid great changes in the world which call for our full vigilance and compel us to draw the correct conclusions. Zionism works cunningly and deviously to exploit these changes in Israel's interest. It tries to make these international changes reflect negatively and dangerously on Arab issues. The signs of this Zionist exploitation in the past few months affirm that Israel is pressing ahead with its known policy of rejecting all sincere peace endeavors, holding on tenaciously to the Arab territories it has occupied, and planning to further expand in Arab territories. Israel continues to hint at its adherence to its expansionist aims to establish Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. Those who are aggressive hate peace and fight it; their policy is aggression and their way is war. Because of its aggression and occupation of Arab territories, Israel is an enemy of peace. There can be no peace in this region as long as Israel continues to improve its weapons and reinforce its Army with more immigrant manpower. It depends on the unlimited support of the United States. Yet Israel insists on holding on to the occupied Arab land and denies the Palestinians the right to their homeland.

Military service, which stands for honor, manhood, principle, and creed, is a guarantee to prevent a real catastrophe from befalling our Arab nation if we do not sincerely and properly prepare ourselves to confront the dangers surrounding the Arab nation. We want Arab efforts to be unified and integrated to confront these dangers. Our efforts in this respect will continue. At any rate, we are determined to carry out our national and pan-Arab duties in accordance with what is known about Syria's loyalty to the national and pan-Arab tasks and its readiness to sacrifice in order to see them through. This has been confirmed by the honorable battles fought by our Armed Forces and the pan-Arab tasks they have carried out since the establishment of this Army—especially the heroic battles they fought on land, in the air, and at sea during the glorious October liberation war, the battle of Golan and Mount Hermon, and the battles in Lebanon against the Israeli invasion. This is in addition to their assistance to fraternal Lebanon since the beginning of its crisis and during all its stages.

My brothers and sons in the brave Armed Forces: The glorious heritage and history of our people and nation strengthen our struggle. The record of our Army will remain full of heroism and sacrifices. Our Armed Forces will remain a model for all the noble characteristics of military service.

Our dear kinfolk in Golan, our brothers the heroes of the intifadah in Arab Palestine, and the heroes of the resistance in southern Lebanon are worthy of all our support. We salute them and say that we will support them until victory: liberation of the occupied territories and restoration of the usurped rights.

The people and I salute the martyrs of our Armed Forces, who illuminated the path of struggle by their pure blood and proved to all that we belong to a nation that rejects oppression and glorifies martyrdom as a means to victory.

My brothers and sons, I repeat my greetings and congratulations to you on the occasion of your national holiday. I call on you to exert more efforts in training, preperation, and vigilance in order to guarantee victory in all future tasks. Peace be upon you.

'Skeptics, Opposers' Urged To Help Unify Lebanon

JN3107150090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, after the Lebanese Government decided to move on to the stage of actual implementation of the national accord charter and of confrontation

of those who place obstacles in its way, the attention of Lebanese leaders and citizens came to be focused on Damascus, where they sense support and aid, especially since the al-Ta'if accord charged Syria with the task of helping to translate the document into tangible reality on the ground.

President al-Hirawi held detailed talks with leader al-Asad. Deputy George Sa'adah also visited the Syrian capital. Yesterday, leader al-Asad received the delegation of independent Maronite deputies and reaffirmed that Syria stands decisively by the legitimate government and supports all its steps to implement the accord and extend its authority throughout Lebanese territory.

Anyone who has followed the developments in the Lebanese crisis over recent years can sense the continuity in Syria's principle stand ever since the conflict exploded. Leader al-Asad gave up a great deal of his time and attention to fraternal Lebanon. At every opportunity he declared that Syria wanted nothing but the unity of this Arab country, concord among its sons, and an end to the sedition there. He also declared that Syria embraced all Lebanese without discrimination or conditions when dealing with them other than loyalty to the homeland's unity and Arabism.

Leader al-Asad deployed Syrian forces on Lebanese territory to stop the civil war and to spread peace, security, and stability. He made clear that Syria had no ambitions or designs on Lebanon other than saving the fraternal country from deterioration, retrieving its well-being, and bringing it up to its Arab group.

Today, after 15 years of crisis and of continuous efforts to end it, Syria reaffirms this stance. It is a principled stance stemming from a pan-Arab conscience and the special Syrian-Lebanese relationship. Syria and Lebanon are twins, one people in two countries. What befalls one of them befalls the other. Syria stands firmly alongside the efforts of the legitimate Lebanese Government to carry out the al-Ta'if accord. Syria calls on the skeptics, opposers, and procrastinators to immediately join the legitimate government and come under its banner.

Lebanon has paid dearly in the blood of its sons; it has suffered demolition and destruction because some authoritarian people cling to their sectarian privileges and refuse to establish justice and equality among the sons of the same nation. This rigidity has led them into suspect alliances that resulted in tragedies and in Israeli attacks on Lebanon as well as blatant Zionist interference in its affairs and sovereignty.

The tragedies of the Zionist invasion of the fraternal country in 1982 and the horrendous massacres and crimes that went along with this invasion continue to be seen as examples. From one pitfall to another and from one perverted view to another even more perverted, the Lebanese in the eastern and western sectors of Beirut have both paid a dear price for these wrong and sick attitudes which should no longer control the country's present and the future.

The al-Ta'if accord, which was officially recognized by constitutional institutions, set the grounds for a strong national accord and constituted a decisive change in the country's history. The proof is the popular, spiritual, and official unanimity on the need to end the crisis and proceed with a new and healthy Lebanon to security, peace, stability, and productive work.

The accord received great Arab and international support. There is not a single loyal Lebanese who will allow this historic opportunity to end the crisis to slip by. The legitimate Lebanese Government declared its determination to speedily implement the accord and took measures for this purpose.

Syria supports this sound national policy with all its might, and it calls on the skeptics and opposers to join the unification march before it is too late; history will no longer forgive those who stand as obstacles to the rise and accord of the Lebanese homeland.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Meets Academy of Science Members

LD2807200290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met today a number of scholars and researchers of the Academy of Science of the Republic of Afghanistan, and spoke to them about the acceleration of the peace process and the deepening of national reconciliation.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that after the recitation of some Koranic verses by (Qari Barakatollah Salim), Dr. Nematullah Pazhwak, deputy prime minister, expressed pleasure for esteemed Najibullah's meeting with the country's scholars. Afterwards, esteemed Najibullah delivered a speech in which he explained the tasks of the scholars and researchers of the country before the people and the homeland.

He said: Recently in talks with people of various strata of society, I have exchanged views with them on the ways and methods of the cessation of war, the restoration of peace, and Afghanistan's socio-economic reconstruction. No doubt the meetings and talks on the one hand enhanced the participation of the people in the current and future changes of the counry, and on the other hand they have added to endowments of the action of the Republic of Afghanistan in full understanding with representatives of various strata of society.

The esteemed president said: The current situation in the country is such that national reconciliation has brought about powerful motives in the interest of passing from war to peace and the political solution of the Afghan problem. The political solution of the Afghan problem has reached its sensitive stage in spite of the obstacle created in its way by warmonger extremists and their international supporters. In such a situation, I would like to address you scholars and intellectuals of the country that before all of us rest great national tasks which are beyond any personal, political, ideological, individual, tribal and organizational interests.

Vice President 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat and academician Sulayman La'eq were also present in the meeting. Some scholars and researchers thanked esteemed Najibullah for giving them the opportunity of meeting him and presented their proposals and specific views on the implementation of the leading speech of esteemed Najibullah, and mentioned present problems which hinder scientific research work.

At the end esteemed Najibullah, assessing views of scholars in connection with acceleration peace process in the country and the resolving of the problems existing in the Academy of Science of the Republic of Afghanistan said: It is a matter of great pleasure that our scholars put forward their problems in fully open and free atmosphere—albeit it is itself a pluralism of opinions in practice. However, it is to be noted that the only way out of all those shortcomings and problems is the ensuring of national unity, peace, and acceleration of that processing in the country, and efforts shall be made in that direction. Scholars of the Academy of Science, as a credible organ, should help the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in the deepening and acceleration of peace process by taking advantage of their knowledge and experience.

Addresses Academy 28 Jul

LD2907222390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Closing remarks by President Najibullah following a meeting with members of the Afghan Academy of Science in Kabul on 28 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] With the permission of scientists, researchers, and esteemed lecturers: It is with great pleasure that I received the proposals put forward by you esteemed scientists, through whatever method you chose. I believe this was in itself an example of the pluralism of beliefs in action. (?Second), a number of ideas and criticisms that you have put forward are concrete. Therefore we, all of us, have come here, including the state and government leaders, so all of them very soon [words indistinct] in this direction and take steps in light of your opinions in order to remove shortcomings and faults. However, if you allow me to complain about problems and difficulties, believe me, if we sit for a week and write them down, books will be filled and no end will be in sight. These sort of problems exist in every society, be it in capitalist systems or socialist systems, be it the East, the South, or the North and the West, such shortcomings exist. But when we talks about problems, in particular we expect our esteemed scientists to [word indistinct] and have the authority to dictate what circle one should turn to to solve the problem. If problems are defined [words indistinct] the solution of which could influence the settlement of all other problems. I believe this should be the fundamental thing. They should show the direction towards the solution of problems. In this regard, I ask you for help to engage in such tasks and start today to categorize the problems that you are faced with.

You put forward everything that you had heard about us, things from our enemies and things that were due to complexes or about a series of realistic matters that we are facing. This however, cannot solve problems. As Mr. Elham said, what has been identified now by the Republic of Afghanistan, political and social forces and personalities in the society—the world thinks that the problem of Afghanistan and the maintenance of peace should be solved through political means. I have conversed with a number of other teachers and they too have spoken about their life, their problems, their families and laboratories. I told them okay; if we build these for you now, what would you do if they were destroyed? The fact is that your budget has been swallowed by war. I should tell you frankly that 80 percent of your budget has been spent on this cursed war. [passage omitted]

I complained because of the fact that no laboratory was needed. All of you are scientists. Five or ten of you could have sat and told the state that you have put forward a program and mechanism of peace, and if such and such amendments are introduced into it and such points are taken into consideration, the process of peace will soon be implemented and the opposition will come and sit with you for dialogue and talks. So far, we have put forward more than 30 or 35 proposals towards maintaining peace as well as concerning power-sharing. Who can tell me what sort of proposals you scientists have put forward to the state and the government. [passage omitted]

You have read the history of World War II. It lasted five years. I went to Leningrad once, about seven or eight years ago, and visited a museum. In the museum I saw that they were given around 100 or 200 grams of bread per person during the five years of the war, five years of war. Then look at the dimension of this war [Afghanistan war], its meaning, and look at the weapons that are being used against Afghanistan.

Still, if we compare, the prices are high but goods are available. The enemy wanted to create an economic blockade to kill us from hunger. In Leningrad's front, where 500,000 people were killed, 100,000 people were killed from effect of war, but 400,000 died as a result of famine.

We naturally want to meet all your demands, requirements, and necessities, so if the war continues, your demands cannot be met. Therefore, we have made self-sacrifices; the truth of the matter is that we considered your rights above all. We have said that a section, or a part, or a front has separated itself from us, and a number of countries have exploited the situation; that is, they use these forces extentively. How can we gather them together and create national unity and understanding, and as a result establish peace? The budget, of which 88 percent will spent on war, can be spent on forming the best academy of science and the best laboratory that can be built, roads can be repaired, the shop prices can become normal. Provided we solve this basic problem. If we do not solve this basic problem, I must tell you frankly, your complaints will not be reduced, but will increase. [passage omitted]

One of the great mistakes of (?regime) and sovereignty has been the fact that it has taken into account party contacts in its cadre policy, just a political trust. While the main and basic principle that should have been considered—the character of the person: He should be worthy, he should be an expert, willing to work, and should have a profession and a telent—was ignored. Fortunately, as you can see, we take steps in this direction gradually. At the moment, I should say that more than two-thirds of the government members are not only non-party members, but they are professional people. They are talented and experienced; 17 of them are educated in the West. Two are educated in Egypt, on in Turkey, and six in the Soviet Union. I agree that the elements only based on political trust, or a sort of stance in the interest of a party or a group were promoted, and when these people saw before their eyes promotion, such a (?promotion), they lost interest, and the process of the brain-drain began. In addition, the enemy used many means from abroad to further the brain-drain and purchase these elements, persons. However, these mistakes left, not only the sphere of foreign policy, but inside and in every sphere. This cadre policy based on merit, is not applied 100 percent. However, this principle should be considered toward the application of [word indistinct]. When you take a stand and speak and criticize, it is a campaign. When we take measures, we bring changes from the top, it is also a campaign. This campaign will bring its fruitful results.

With regard to a democratic system, I can say that we choose the government. The government goes to parliament. The parliamentary system exists in Afghanistan. [passage omitted] I must say that voices were heard in Meli Shura [National Assembly] too, that the democracy is a forged democracy. The person who was raising the issue that it is a forged democracy, was himself using this democracy. What type of subject wasn't discussed in such a freedom, which was broadcast direct and live to the people of Afghanistan? We have tolerated, listened to it, and we even learned from them.

Let us not close our eyes to the truth. When we withdrew the units of the Soviet Union, no one believed that the Afghans were able to protect themselves. The psychology reigning at that time and [passage indistinct]. This was done and became a part of history. We did it jointly. [sentence indistinct]. They wanted to dismember our country after that. Attacks on Jalalabad, Khowst, Kabul, etc, were launched for this [words indistinct] that have further taken away from our body. You realize very well that the forces, the essence and character of whom you realize now, that it is the hands of Pakistani ISI [Inter Servies Intelligence] alongwith Gulbuddin, one of the subservient servants of this military espionage of Pakistan—if he succeeded, what would have taken place? Would there be this half-normality, these gains, this atmosphere under which we can speak openly—would that have remained? [passage indistinct]

Addresses Scholars 29 Jul

LD2907232990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Speech by President Najibullah to the Afghan Academy of Sciences in Kabul on 28 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Dear and respected scholars, I am pleased to have the opportunity to meet you. Recently, in talks with various groups of society, I exchanged views on methods and ways of stopping the war and ensuring peace and Afghanistan's socioeconomic reconstruction. The meetings and talks undoubtedly enhanced participation in discussion of the present and future situation of the country and added to the action of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in achieving understanding with the representatives of various groups in society. Therefore, speaking to scholars of the

Academy of Science of the Republic of Afghanistan, who are in fact involved in the arrangement of economic, cultural, social, and political affairs of the country, is important for many reasons. Scholars in society, as torchbearers of science and knowledge, enjoy rich experiences in various fields and devote their efforts toward enlightening, peace, progress, and the prestige of their country. Due to such expectations, I met today with my scholarly friends. I have felt myself separate from you and you from myself. But I am always morally with you. [passage omitted]

The important issue is to find a way out of the present situation and to enhance universal participation in the solution of the Afghan problem. For this reason, since the declaration of a national reconciliation policy, on top of introducing changes in legislative documents, state structure, and various aspects of internal and external policy of the Republic of Afghanistan, steadfast steps have been taken for the deepening of democracy and pluralism. Each of these steps has prepared more appropriate grounds for ensuring peace. As you respected scholars know, alongside measures and actions by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan for attaining the greatest wish of our people, ie, the cessation of war and the restoration peace, some parties operating in the Republic of Afghanistan, too, taking into account national and international requirements, have played their role in attaining national understanding by the introduction of fundamental changes in their structure and program principles.

For instance, the second congress of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], critically assessing its 26 year operation, approved a new program and constitution for the party, which were more in conformity with the existing realities of the Afghan society and adopted national and patriotic goals. In addition, the leadership of the PDPA chose the name of Homeland Party. National and universal policies have been organized, demonstrating this party's national characteristics, and reflecting the interests of all social classes and strata, all nationalities, clans and tribes of the country and they prepared the ground for the practical coordination and the universal participation of all pro-peace forces. Fortunately well-informed and patriotic elements prevailed.

The major question before all the people of Afghanistan, and especially those who approach their country's fate with awareness and patriotism, is the cessation of war and the ensuring of peace. The current situation is such that the national reconciliation policy has brought about powerful impetuses in the transfer from war to peace, and a political solution of the Afghan problem has reached a critical stage, despite the obstacles created by warmonger extremists and their international supporters. In such a situation I would like to address you scholars, and through you, the patriotic intellectuals of the country. Before all of us lie great patriotic and national tasks which transcend any personal, political, ideological, individual, tribal, religious, or group interests. National reconciliation thinking, which entails national and patriotic aims and goals, and which in character belongs to all the people of Afghanistan, not to a person, a group, or a party, must be delivered to all aspects of the society, social, economic, cultural, and political.

In that case, it is you who should fulfil their national tasks by undertaking new research projects. Reconstruction and the country's development are linked with the development of sciences in all fields, and can be implemented with your active participation. Therefore research still needs much work in our country. We should work more effectively and more specifically. Objective and effective plans shall be started. Still, there are many of our country's science and cultures forgotten corners which must be cleared by your scholarly insight, devolution, and self-sacrifice. We should not content ourselves with what has been achieved It is even necessary to resume some research work in this or that field, and work with more depth. It is necessary to take advantage of all possibilities and existing scientific resources for the restoration of peace, which is a serious need of our war-weary society. [passage omitted]

Dear scholars, cliche-type policies belong to the past, and have been thrown away. The main determining pivot of policies shall be the internal and domestic factors of the country itself, and should have national and historic characteristics. So we are obliged to determine our policy by our own scholars, to take advantage of the scientific experience and achievements of the rest of the world and other countries' rich experience in political fields, but mainly, the major work is to be done by Afghans in the land of Afghans.

What we try to improve, and cannot, is that we committed a great mistake in past. It was based on this point: We copied and clung to cliches; we tried to impose policies which had no place in the circumstances of our Afghan land on our country by force. We used the brains and books of others. They do not rely on the brains and talents that exist in the mountains of this country. But we relied on them. Besides economic, financial, and human losses which we suffered during the years of war, the greatest loss was [words indistinct]. Cannot we safeguard this country on our own, cannot we defend its terrorial integrity, cannot we defend its independence? In ministries, someone else should have taken our hand and pushed us forward, [words indistinct], our policy should have been determined by others. It was fatal for us, dear friends and comrades. It was really fatal. In the course of history, did our forefathers pass through those historic epochs by the power of others, or by their own manlihood? Why was it downtrodden? In that case we should not have had a lively nation. There is no doubt that we rest in very difficult circumstances and [words indistinct]. all families are bereaved. [passage indistinct] (?those who) tried to open their way in society and in the world, it is before such nations that people of the world will kneel. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry on Readmission to ICO

LD3007211990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] The statement of the Foreign Ministry spokesman on the regular session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], which is due to be held in Cairo on 31 July 1990.

Today more than a year has passed since the ICO foreign ministers 18th session was held in Riyadh, where the Republic of Afghanistan's seat was given to the Afghan opposition based in Pakistan under the pressure some countries and in accordance with a previously arranged senario after the withdrawal of the USSR forces and after the broad offensive on Jalalabad for the so-called fall of the sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan. Ensuing realities and developments made it quite clear that such a hasty and unrealistic decision was not only in contrast with the norms of the ICO, but was also in plain contrast with the living and objective realities of our Islamic country, the Republic of Afghanistan. That act led only to the intensification of war and bloodshed.

The spokesman said: The Republic of Afghanistan has made comprehensive and good efforts that show its desire and good intentions for the restoration of its membership in the credible organization of Islamic Conference. Among them we can point out the following measures and efforts in this respect: Those messages of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, which were sent to the responsible authorities of Islamic countries for securing their understanding and and support on political/military developments of the Republic of Afghanistan, on a political and peaceful solution of problems around Afghanistan and its internal problems, on the enhancement of the authority and role of the Republic of Afghanistan as Muslim and peace-loving country, on the cessation of war and fratricide among the Muslim people of Afghanistan, and on the restoration of peace. Also the sending of 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president, as the special envoy of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to the Arab Republic of Iraq, and also goodwill delegations of the Republic of Afghanistan have made visits to other member countries of the ICO and have furnished information on the development of the situations in the Republic of Afghanistan with leaders of the countries during their stay. 'Abdul Wakil, the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with some foreign ministers of Islamic countries during his participation in the special gathering of the United Nations economic cooperation conference in New York in April 1990. Emphasis has been placed on the proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan on the membership of the Republic of Afghanistan in the ICO during explanations and talks on the situation in the country.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Most members of the ICO countries expressed full understanding and support for that demand of the Republic of Afghanistan. They have said that the Riyadh incident, which occurred under the influence of the dominant circumstances of the Riyadh conference atmosphere and under pressure from Saudi Arabia, has proved its inappropriateness in practice. All embassies and diplomatic missions of the Republic of Afghanistan have been assigned to arrange meetings with diplomatic staff and diplomatic missions of member countries of the ICO and state to the them clearly Afghanistan's demand on the restoration of its membership in the ICO and [to explain] current situation of the country.

The diplomatic mission of Afghanistan, in the course of establishing regular contacts with the ICO secretariat, and has presented to them the reflection of the Republic of Afghanistan's demands in connection with the proposed plans of the Republic of Afghanistan about the resolution of the conference on Afghanistan and the realization of a political solution of problems and the role of the ICO in this respect.

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, despite the defeats of the Riyadh conference decision, still obstinately and hostilely seek to ignore present realities in the Republic of Afghanistan, and intend to prevent the restoration of the membership of the Republic of Afghanistan in the ICO.

Finally the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: The ICO, like the 43d and 44th sessons of the UN General Assembly, and the ninth conference of nonaligned countries heads of governments or states, can in its conference decisions and actions, play a construtive role in line with the ICO's lofty and honorable aims in reaching a political and peaceful solution in Afghanistan, and in bringing about reconciliation and understanding among the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

Council of Ministers Holds Special Session

LD3007201690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 30 Jul 90

[Text] The Prime Ministerial Press Office reports that a special Council of Ministers session was held in Gol Khana Palace, the prime ministerial headquarters, this morning under the chairmanship of esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and discussed several important issues.

Based on the agenda, the session heard a report by the commission dealing with forming a Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. It decided that the Ministry of Social Affairs, together with the Ministry of Finance, taking into account the principle of cost cutting, prevention of structural reduction, and increasing work efficiency, should prepare the new structure of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs by adding to it the General Department of Labor and Social Services, the General Department of Watan Orphanage's Establishments, the Department of Nurseries, and several departments of the Nationwide Councils of Afghanistan's Women, and present to the Council of Ministers within 10 days for approval.

In the session, a report by the Ministry of Culture and Information was also heard in connection with celebrations of the decade of culture and explaining the cultural policy of the Republic of Afghanistan. It was mentioned that the years 1988-1998 have been declared the cultural decade by UNESCO, and all member countries are to strive to implement gains in understanding of cultural dimensions, approval and enriching cultural specifications, expansion of participation in cultural life, international cultural development, and cooperation.

For the active participation of the Republic of Afghanistan, a loyal member committed to the principles of the UN, the Council of Ministers has approved a resolution in five articles in order to celebrate the decade of culture in Afghanistan.

The special session also approved the proposal of the Ministry of Civil Aviation on changing the name of and adding the Department of Garzandoy [Tourism] and the Hotels Enterprise to that ministry. In accordance to this proposal, the name of the Ministry of Civil Aviation is changed to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

The special session of ministers also approved a resolution in connection with approval of pension for those officers of the Armed Forces who retired between the years 1981-1991 and did not benfit from a salary increase during their service. In the resolution it is explained that to implement the pension rights, 351 officers of the Ministries of Defense and Interior of the Republic of Afghanistan, who retired between 1981-1991 and did not benefit from the salary increase of their period of service, should be paid.

The special session of ministers, based on Article 128 of the Constitution, approved the need for amendments in some administrative units approved to go through their legal channels [as heard].

Commission Established To Assist Refugees' Return

LD3007172190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] The Prime Ministerial Press Office reports that a special commission, chaired by esteemed Fazl Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, was formed today in today's cabinet meeting to organize better the affairs of the refugees, and a resolution was issued in this regard.

The Council of Ministers resolution states that in view of the successful implementation of the humanitarian and Islamic policy of national reconciliation as well as the recent development in the political solution of the Afghanistan issue, the process of the return of the refugees has been accelerated. Recently as a result of good efforts by the United Nations, the return of 40,000 families, comprising 2.05 million persons, to their countries has practically begun. In order to welcome them in a worthy manner, in addition to the assistance given by the United Nations, it is necessary that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan should take urgent and extra measures to provide financial assistance. Therefore, a special commission for the return of the refugees was formed under the supervision of esteemed Khaliqyar in the following order and set to work:

Esteemed Dr. Nematullah Pazhwak, deputy prime minister, member of commission.

Esteemed Dr. 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, member of the commission

Esteemed Lieutenant General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, defense minister, member of the commission.

Esteemed Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security, member of the commission.

Esteemed Dr. Raz Muhammad Paktin, minister of interior, member of the commission.

Esteemed Sarjang Zazi, minister of tribal affairs, member of the commission.

Esteemed Fateh Muhammad Tarin, minister of returnees affairs, member of the commission.

This commission will urgently assess all the important issues related to the better organization of the honorable return of the refugees to their country and should take necessary measures.

Islamic Radio Reports Recent Clashes

LD2007181890 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Two hundred men of the Kabul regime's forces came over to the side of the Muslim mujahidin last week in Herat Province. [words indistinct] the mujahidin division of Hazrat-e Ali, peace be upon him, in the course of operation carried out last week in Ghorian, Pashtun Zarghon, and Adreskan regions, Herat Province, killed 60 men of the Kabul regime. During this operation the Muslim mujahidin destroyed two military posts and seized a substantial amount of weapons and ammunition as well as four military vehicles.

Another report from Paktia Province says that a transport plane of the Kabul regime was destroyed in Khowst airport in last Friday evening [13 July] as a result of a missile attack by the Muslim mujahidin and those on board were all killed. This plane was landing at Khowst airport which came under the missile attack by the mujahidin.

According to this report, the regime after this attack started bombing the mujahidin positions in Khowst heights. No report is however available on the losses and damages caused by this bombing.

A source of the Muslim mujahidin termed as lies the claim made by the Kabul regime alleging the loss of 42 mujahidin and destruction of a supply convoy in the northern section of Jalalabad city. This source said on Monday that the claim made by the Kabul regime's radio on Sunday evening alleging the loss of a large number of mujahidin in the north of Jalalabad is baseless and untrue.

The source added: Kama and Khewa districts—alleged by the Kabul regime to be the place of martyrdom of the mujahidin—are under the complete control of the Muslim mujahidin.

Kabul Garrison Troops Seize Weapons, Ammunition

LD2807173890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The units and subunits of the Armed Forces engaged in military and mopping-up operations in Paghman district successfully continued their offensive operations today in the Pasha'e Dara, Kami Nur, and Kami Hazara regions.

A competent source of the Kabul Garrison General Command told the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section that in the course of these operations three ammunition depots, 17 U.S.-made [as heard] SAKR-30 surface-to-surface missiles, 20 cluster-type surface-to-surface missiles, 20 Melan-type guided missiles, artillery shells [no number as heard], 180 rocket launcher shells, 60 other types of shells, and 10 boxes of mortar ammunition were seized.

The units and subunits of Kabul Garrison General Command have also inflicted crushing blows on the extremists' positions located in the Mosa'e region, Lowgar Province. As a result of these attacks, 22 extremists, including two ringleaders, Mohammad Shafi and Mohammad Sami, were crushed, and another five extremists were injured. Three positions of the extremists, as well as five ammunition depots were destroyed; four boxes of DSHK ammunition and a quantity of antigovernment propaganda leaflets were seized.

The units and subunits, with high combative morale, are successfully continuing their military and mopping-up operations in all these areas

State Security Ambushes 'Extremist' Convoy

LD2907145890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] State security units and companies in Nangarhar Province carried out an ambush in Daht-e Ganberi and seized an ammunition convoy belonging to the extremist group of Gulbuddin. The BAKHTAR military section reports that the convoy was carrying hundreds of gun and rocket-launcher shells. A number of the convoy's guards were also eliminated.

Bangladesh

50 Reported Dead as Doctors' Strike Continues

BK3107132890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] In Bangladesh, thousands of patients walked away from hospitals today after 8,000 government doctors extended their three-day strike. Reports from Dhaka say at least 50 people died due to lack of medical care during the last three days. Bangladesh Medical Association has said the strike will continue until the 15th of next month as the government has refused to meet their demands. Doctors in the country's 600 government-run hospitals went on strike on Saturday [28 July] to protest against the government's new health policy which proposes a ban on private practice.

Minister Calls Strike 'Unreasonable'

BK3107165290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Azizur Rahman has said the proposed national health policy envisages the overall change of the present health system which will ensure preventive and curative healthcare for all sections of the people. At a news conference in Dhaka this afternoon, the minister said the family planning program and nutrition will be ensured in the proposed health policy.

Explaining the salient features of the health policy, he said the right to healthcare of all limited-resource people in society will be ensured. The poor and the distressed people will get treatment free of cost, while others will be given medicine and treatment on partial cost. The minister said under the referral system as envisaged in the health policy, the people in remote areas will also get the treatment facilities of the specialist. He said the professors of medical colleges will get an additional salary of 150 percent and the junior consultants 100 percent in addition to other facilities. He added if the policies implemented, over 5,000 junior and senior consultants will get employment.

Dr. Azizur Rahman said the proposal to make autonomous all the medical colleges has been made as per demand of the doctors and the BMA [Bangladesh Medical Association]. He said in the proposed national health policy, there is a proposal for building career, (?imparting) training for the junior and recently-passed doctors. If the policy is implemented, there will be required a large number of consultants, and as a result, provision has been made to provide first graduate training in all existing eight medical colleges. The minister said a number of avenues will remain open for a junior doctor. After completing interneeship, he may choose teaching, expertise in administration, and general practice. Besides, it has been made compulsory for health service in all the industrial setups in the country which will increase the provision of employment for the doctors. The minister said there is no provision for abolishing cadres in the proposed national health policy.

The minister said under the government service rules and regulations, the doctors cannot go on strike. He described the strike as unreasonable. The minister appealed to the doctors to call off their strike in the greater interests of the suffering humanity. He said in view of the strike called by the doctors, after the 15th of next month the government has made arrangements of treatment of people in several hospitals in the capital.

The hospitals are: Railway Hospital, Police Hospital, National Hospital, Holy Family Hospital, Suhrawardy Hospital Complex, Child Hospital, and Pangu Hospital. The volunteer doctors will treat the patients in these hospitals. Besides, 21 government dispensaries all over the city will remain open for treatment of the people with the help of the voluntary doctors. Dr. Azizur Rahman said the government is keeping watch on the situation, and if necessary such facilities of treatment will be extended throughout the country.

India

Further Reportage on Forged Letter 'Crisis'

Meeting To Decide Devi Lal's Future

BK3107131290 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 31 Jul 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Indian prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has called a top-level meeting in Delhi today to decide the future of his deputy, Mr. Devi Lal. Mr. Devi Lal created a new crisis for the government coalition by giving a newspaper interview in which he was quoted as making derogatory remarks about fellow ministers. From Delhi, Mark Tully reports:

[Begin Tully recording] At least two of the prime minister's Cabinet colleagues are still demanding the dismissal of the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal. He has made allegations of corruption against both the ministers. He has also angered almost the entire Cabinet by an interview in which he was quoted as making derogatory remarks about the prime minister and other ministers. This is the second crisis the deputy prime minister has precipitated in two weeks. At one stage, it looked that Mr. Devi Lal, who has never fully reconciled himself to the leadership of Mr. V.P. Singh, had gone too far this time. He found himself isolated at the Cabinet meeting called to discuss his allegations of corruption, allegations backed by the forged letter. But now it appears that the prime minister is having second thoughts because he has been warned that Mr. Devi Lal, who has a large following, could be more trouble outside the government than inside. Three of the five National Front chief ministers owe their places to Mr. Devi Lal, but they did not support him in the earlier crisis when he had to face the humiliation of backing down from his stand. Nevertheless, it is not expected that the chief ministers will go so far as to support the dismissal of the deputy prime minister. [end recording]

Consultations Continue

BK3107161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] The top leadership of the National Front and the Janata Dal are continuing consultations to resolve the crisis arising out of the forged letter issue. Party sources say that the four Janata Dal chief ministers—Mr. Biju Patnaik, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, and Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav—met the prime minister in New Delhi today and conveyed their views on the matter. The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, also had discussions with the chief ministers. The four leaders are understood to be in touch with the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal.

Talking to newsmen immediately after attending a meeting of the National Front chief ministers in the evening, Mr. V. P. Singh said he is yet to get a reply from Mr. Devi Lal from whom he had sought an explanation on the forged letter. Mr. Bommai, who was also approached by newsmen, said that he is hopeful of finding a solution to the crisis. He, however, did not give any specific time by which the crisis would blow over.

As already reported, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the left parties have conveyed to the prime minister that the issue should be tackled in a manner which does not affect the stability of the government. The BJP general secretary, Mr. K.L. Sharma, said that the ongoing developments in the Janata Dal are damaging the image of the government besides harming the interests of the parties supporting it.

Reacting to the developments, a Congress-I spokesman said that recurring crises being faced by the National Front government will weaken the country.

Meanwhile, agency reports quoting sources say that the Janata Dal leadership is engaged in drafting a code of conduct for ministers and senior leaders. It is said that such a code would prohibit the airing in public of grievances and charges against party and ministerial colleagues.

Party Officials To Meet 3 Aug

BK0108061090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The parliamentary parties of the National Front and the Janata Dal are to meet in New Delhi on Friday [3 August] to take stock of the current political situation. According to the front's sources, its parliamentary party will meet at 1600 [1030 GMT] and that of the Janata Dal at 1700 on that day. The sources said these two meetings are being held at the instance of the prime minister, who wants to discuss with all leaders of the Front and the Dal the aspects of the current crisis and ways to bring about stability in the Front and the Dal as well as in the government. In view of this development, the interstate council and the national development council meetings, which were to be held at Bangalore later this week have been postponed. Fresh dates will be announced later.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi top leaders of the National Front and the Janata Dal are continuing their consultations to resolve the forged letter issue. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Politburo leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, has said that the left parties wanted the National Front

government to continue. He told newsmen after the party's Politburo meeting in New Delhi last night that the left parties hoped a solution to the crisis will be found in a day or two. The leaders of the left parties, who had met the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, and other Front leaders on the issue, have requested them to resolve the crisis in the national interest.

Janata Dal Chief on Crisis

BK0108101290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] High-level consultations are continuing in New Delhi among the Janata Dal leadership to pave the way for defusing the present crisis over the forged letter issue and related matters. The party chief, Mr. S.R. Bommai, told our correspondent this morning that he may even meet the leaders of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the CPI [Communist Party of India], and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]. The consultations are a follow-up of last night's decision to convene the [meeting of] parliamentary parties of the Janata Dal and the National Front on Friday [3 August]. The meetings are reported being held at the instance of the prime minister.

Mr. Bommai denied that holding of the parliamentary party meetings at this juncture will keep the issue alive. He said instead, it will provide a wider forum to solve the problem democratically. The Janata Dal chief pointed out that frequent difficulties facing the party are only teething troubles as it will take some more time for full integration of the one and half-year-old party. He said that leaders from different backgrounds have come together to fulfill the people's mandate. He asserted that the party leadership is acting democratically to resolve any issue facing it.

Replying to a question, Mr. Bommai maintained that the Janata Dal is now in the process of evolving a mechanism to meet any contingency in future and to provide some type of code of conduct for party leaders and ministers.

Meanwhile, the chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have returned to their states and they will be back in the capital for the parliamentary parties' meetings. The other two Janata Dal chief ministers of Bihar and Orissa are continuing parleys in New Delhi.

Devi Lal Replies to Premier

BK0108130490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has given a reply to the prime minister in response to Mr. V.P. Singh's letter on issues which led to the present crisis. Though details of the reply are not immediately known, it is understood that the deputy prime minister has said that he did not intend to hurt the feelings of anyone while recently giving an interview to a Bombay weekly. He is also understood to have observed in his letter that the interviewer did not understand him properly. It may be recalled that the prime minister had sought Mr. Devi Lal's explanation for forwarding an allegedly forged letter to him. [passage omitted]

Commentary Criticizes New Fijian Constitution

BK2807122890 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Amitabh Chakraborty commentary entitled: "The New Constitution in Fiji—Democracy or Constitutional Oligarchy?"]

[Text] What has raised the storm in the Pacific island of Fiji now is not the aspirations of the subnationalists but the demand for legitimate democratic rights of an ethnic group that has lived in harmony for over three generations and contributed to the prosperity of that country. The Fijian president, Ratu Penaia Ganilau on Wednesday [25 July] promulgated a new constitution that guarantees so-called political dominance of ethnic Melanesian Fijians.

As per the new constitution, which comes into effect through an ordinance, immediately provides Melanesian Fijians 37 seats in the House of Representatives as against 27 for the Fijian Indians and five for general electors [sentence as heard]. In the upper house, it guarantees 24 seats to the Melanesian Fijians and 10 for Fiji Indians and other races. In other [words indistinct] members of the upper house cannot become full ministers on the advice of the prime minister, thereby making it possible for non-elected members dominating the cabinet.

Fijian President Mr. Ganialau said that Fiji had accepted the notion of dominance of Melanesian Fijians in 1970 and the new constitution was an extension of that concept. The irony is that the so-called new constitution is stated to have derived inspiration from protective provision in the Indian, Malaysian, and Canadian Constitutions about the rights of minorities. Mr. (Kuni Habbadada), leader of the opposition and the widow of the former prime minister, Mr. Bavadra, said that the coalition would boycott any election under the new constitution.

Meanwhile, Fiji's main opposition to the national federation of Fiji Labor Party [FLP] coalition has condemned the constitution as racist and has said that the political part of the indigenous Fijian minority will create dissension and harm racial harmony. The way Bavadra government was uprooted by Colonel Rabuka in May 1987, defying all norms of civility and constitutional propriety is too recent to be forgotten. The severe international reaction that followed the expulsion of Fiji from the Commonwealth, following Vancouver summit underscored the fact that the government of Colonel Rabuka was an unpopular government and racially prejudiced against Fijian Indians. The mastermind behind the coup, Colonel Rabuka, who wanted to meet his antiracial intentions amply clear brought back Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, leader of the Alliance Party which had lost the 1987 elections against the coalition of the NFL [National Federation Party] and the FLP.

India refused to recognize this interim regime, because it came to power through a coup by toppling a democratically

elected government. The aim of this interim government was to formulate a constitution which would ensure the dominance of ethnic Fijians. Whenever the National Federation Party and the Fiji Labor Party tried to organize meetings to discuss the draft constitution, the interim regime tried to thwart it. Social and cultural organizations of Indians and other church organizations commented on the draft and rejected it because its basis was racial discrimination. Even urban educated Fijians resented it, because it was designed to strengthen the feudal structure.

In December 1989, the term of the interim government was extended by two years and some cabinet changes were made. Representations of Indian community in the cabinet was further reduced in June 1990. The Great Council of Chiefs recognized the draft constitution. The Great Council of Chiefs is a feudal body and has no constitutional function. Meanwhile, the Indian Embassy's closure was ordered on the 24th of May 1990. On the 4th of June 1990, the head of the Indian mission, Mr. V.B. Soni came back to India with the rest of the embassy staff. Discrimination against Indians has begun in admission to educational institutions, scholarships, recruitment to civil services and financial assistance to business. Ninety percent of Indians are sugarcane farmers. These farms are held on leases. The interim government is trying to change the terms of these leases and make them disadvantageous that it would be impossible to subsist. Attempts are being made to change all economic arrangements to the disadvantage of the sugarcane farmers.

Fijian Indians have all done well in the field of education. They have entered various professions. They have made a positive contribution to the economy and the society of Fiji. A charge has been leveled against Indians that they were dominating the Fijians' economy. Although Indians have played a significant role in building the economy of Fiji, they do not control it. They are not owners of land or cattle. The economy is actually controlled by foreign multinational companies. The present situation in Fiji is a typical example of how a legitimate ethnic group is deprived of its democratic rights. The constitution that had (?faithfully) acknowledged the racial multiplicity and provided equal rights to all was abrogated by the application of force, thereby bidding farewell to the norms of civilized methods of self-determination.

World Urged To Isolate Fiji's 'Racist' Regime

BK2907172690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] India has called upon all democratic forces in the world to condemn the promulgation of the Constitution in Fiji. Describing it as racist and undemocratic in content and character, an official spokesman said in New Delhi that time has come to isolate the illegal regime in Fiji and defeat its attempt to impose this new form of racism.

Spokesman Expresses Concern Over Trinidad, Tobago

BK2907173890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] India has received with concern the news about the disturbed situation in Trinidad and Tobago. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the Indian High Commission in the Caribbean island has informed that all the Indian citizens there are safe. Negotiations are on between the island government and those responsible for the current situation. The spokesman said India sincerely hopes that the democratic process in Trinidad and Tobago will not be disturbed and the crisis resolved soon within constitutional norms. As reported earlier, the Trinidad and Tobago prime minister, Mr. Arthur Robinson, is reported to have agreed to step down as demanded by his Muslim captors.

Friendship Delegation Meets Nepalese King, Premier

BK3007033890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Members of the India-Nepal Friendship Association called on King Birendra in Kathmandu last evening. They also had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai. The delegation is on a four-day visit to the Himalayan kingdom. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent reports that the 18-member delegation led by Mr. Manabendra Singh, MP [member of Parliament], is exploring ways and means to strengthen India-Nepal cooperation in various fields.

Cultural Agreement Signed With Bangladesh

BK3107164590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to expand their cooperation in cultural and academic fields. A program covering three years from now was signed in New Delhi today. It provides for exchanges in the fields of education, art and culture, tourism, health, sports, radio, television, [word indistinct] and films. There will also be exchange of visits by scientists, technologists, historians, and others. India will offer 110 scholarships to Bangladeshi students for study in India.

Singh Suggests Ways To Rid World of Nuclear Arms

BK2907140390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister has stressed the need to have a global approach to make the world free from nuclear weapons. Mr. V.P. Singh said that the initiative must come from superpowers who should drastically cut down their nuclear arsenals. Other nuclear powers should then dismantle the nuclear weapons, which can be followed by a dialogue among countries which have nuclear capability to ensure nonproliferation of nuclear arms. The prime minister was speaking at an international conference on peace, security, and cooperation in South

and Southeast Asia in New Delhi yesterday. He reiterated India's commitment to have friendly relations with all its neighbors.

Foreign Companies To Join in Oil Exploration

BK3007092690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] The petroleum and chemicals minister, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, has said that the government is determined to invite foreign participation in oil exploration in selected blocks in spite of opposition from domestic oil companies. In an interview to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], he said the process of inviting foreign companies will begin soon. Mr. Gurupadaswamy said measures will be taken for more intensified oil exploration and expansion of refinery capacities in the country so that it can meet the growing demand for petroleum products.

Pakistani National Arrested With 10 Kg Heroin

BK2807101090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Smuggled heroin worth 10 crore rupees in the international market was seized from a Pakistani national on the border in Ganga Nadi District in Rajasthan early this morning. According to official sources at Jaipur, the Pakistani national was apprehended in a joint operation by the customs and the Border Security Force. The smuggler intruded into the Indian territory with 10 kgs of heroin packed in 10 packets. Several incriminating documents have also been seized from him.

Tamil Nadu Party Splinter Group Elects Leader

BK0108113790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] The general council of the splinter group of the All-India ADMK [Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham, AIADMK] meeting in Madras today has expelled the general secretary of the party, Ms. Jayalalitha, from the primary membership of the party. It elected former minister Mr. S. Thirunavukkarasu as its general secretary. The splinter group consists mainly of former ministers—Mr. Thirunavukkarasu, Mr. K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, and Mr. Kolandaivelu—and their supporters who were expelled recently from the AIADMK for alleged antiparty activities.

Home Minister on Dealing 'Firmly' With Subversives

BK3107100690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, today reiterated the government's resolve to deal firmly with secessionists and subversives, and said there will be no compromise with the unity and integrity of the country. He was speaking at the consultative committee meeting of the Home Ministry in New Delhi today. He said continued flow of sophisticated arms and ammunition from across the border and training of terrorists in the camps operating in Pakistan have aggravated militants' activities in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The minister informed the members that in Punjab, border fencing of another 226 km and floodlighting of 230 km will be undertaken. He said sustained pressure is being maintained on the militants in Jammu and Kashmir. The home minister apprised the meeting of various steps being taken for economic development of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

About the activities of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] in Assam, the minister said a package of measures has been formulated in consultation with the state government. He said the center has asked the Assam government for early implementation of these measures. The minister said the Rama Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed territory claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue continues to cause concern to the government. He said a dialogue is continuing with all concerned to find an amicable solution. The minister said that the center has suggested to the state governments a revised set of comprehensive guidelines which should form the basis for a long-term strategy to deal with the communal situation. The home minister said the center is constantly reviewing the situation arising out of the influx of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in Tamil Nadu. He said coastal patrolling has been intensified and a special task force deployed in the coastal belt to check militants' activities.

Antiterrorist Operations Stepped Up in Punjab

BK2807163890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] In Punjab, the security forces have stepped up operations all over the state to meet the challenge posed by terrorists. Speaking at a news conference at Amritsar today, the state director general of police, Mr. K.P.S Gill, said that terrorists have slipped out of their activity-prone areas of border districts of Amritsar and Gurdaspur as a result of a special campaign launched about 20 days ago which warranted the new operation. He said operations are being carried out in the police districts of Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Majitha, Batala, and Gurdaspur jointly by the state police, CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], BSF [Border Security Force], and the National Security Guard.

Meanwhile, an Assistant Superintendent of Police [ASP] escaped an attempt on his life while 16 persons including four terrorists were killed in separate incidents since last night in the state. According to an official spokesman, terrorists ambushed the vehicle of ASP of Gurdaspur District near Saniwali village when he was on his way from Amritsar to Batala last night. While he escaped unhurt, two policemen escorting him sustained injuries. Later, three of the fleeing terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police near Batala.

One Killed, 12 Injured in Calcutta Police Shooting

BK2907155390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] In West Bengal, one person was killed and 12 others were injured in a police firing following a clash between two groups of antisocial elements in Iqbal Pur police station area in Calcutta this morning. Twenty-four persons have been arrested. Jawans [soldiers] of the Eastern Frontier Rifles have been deployed in the area. According to deputy commissioner of police, Mr. S.I.S. Ahmad, police had to fire eight rounds when bursting of tear gas shells failed to disperse the violent mob. Five policemen were injured in the incident. The situation is under control.

Terrorist Incidents Reported in Kashmir

12 Terrorists Killed, Six Arrested

BK2907163190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Twelve Pak-trained terrorists have been killed and seven arrested in Kupwara District of Jammu and Kashmir when they tried to cross over into the Indian territory. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them.

Five persons were killed in separate incidents of violence in different parts of the valley. The curfew was relaxed for 14 hours from 0500 this morning in Sopor Town, which passed off peacefully.

Seven Die; Six 'Militants' Arrested

BK3107164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, seven people were killed while six militants were arrested in the Kashmir Valley since last night. Among the arrested are two top leaders of the militants. One is Mian Abdul Qayyum, the president of the Srinagar Bar Association, against whom an arrest warrant was pending after he had gone underground. The second is Ashraf Sehrai, a top leader of the outlawed Jamaat-i-Islami who had been evading arrest. These terrorists, who were trained in Pakistan, were arrested by the security forces from different places in the valley, and arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Eight Arrested; Curfew Relaxed 1 Aug

BK0108061290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] In Kashmir, security forces yesterday arrested eight persons, including two top leaders of secessionist organizations. They are Mian Abdul Qayyum, convenor of the so-called Tehrik-i-Hurriat-i-Kashmir and (Ashraf Sehrai) of the outlawed Jamiat-i-Islami. Five persons were also killed in the valley yesterday.

Meanwhile, the law and order situation in the valley was reviewed at a high-level meeting in Srinagar yesterday, presided over the governor. The meeting decided to further strengthen the vigil on the border to prevent sneaking-in by Pakistan-trained militants. Vigil will also be stepped up in the valley in view of the bomb blast in the civil secretariat on Monday last.

Curfew in Srinagar has been relaxed from 0600 [0030 GMT] for 12 hours today. In Jammu town, life has returned to complete normalcy, but night curfew will continue as a precautionary measure.

Iran

Further Reportage on Austrian Official's Visit

Velayati on Expanding Ties

LD3107121490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] At a meeting this morning with Foreign Minister Velayati, the Austrian deputy minister for political affairs handed him a written message from the Austrian foreign minister. According to the Central News Unit, while expressing thanks for this message and referring to the current good relations existing between the two countries, Mr. Velayati announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to further expand political, economic, and cultural relations with Austria.

The Austrian deputy foreign minister also stated his country's preparedness to raise the level of bilateral relations; he considered that the contacts between the two countries' high-ranking officials have been useful, and called for their continuations. At the end of the meeting, the Austrian deputy foreign minister informed Mr. Velayati about the latest developments in central Europe.

Va'ezi, Schmitt Hold More Talks

LD3107180190 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—Austrian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Erich Maximilian Schmitt Tuesday met with Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi.

This was their second meeting in two days.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed various issues among them the recent progress toward the implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, the developments in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Europe and other topics of bilateral interest.

Reiterating the full execution of the Resolution 598 under the U.N. chief's direct supervision, Va'ezi said the recent exchange of letters between Iranian and Iraqi presidents was within the context of the resolution.

Referring to the issue of Afghanistan, Va'ezi informed his counterpart of the recent developments and emphasized the role of all the individual Afghans in determining their future government.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran would never cut its support for the Afghan people. The Iranian official also expressed regret at the renewed clashes between Amal and Hizballah in southern Lebanon, saying that the Zionist regime played an important role in the outbreak of the fighting. Va'ezi said the Lebanese problem should be settled principally with due consideration of the rights of the (Muslim) majority.

The Austrian official in turn welcomed the new trend in the Iran-Iraq peace talks and hoped that a lasting peace would soon be estabished in the region. Schmitt also agreed with his Iranian counterpart that the vote of the majority should be taken into regard in the Lebanese events.

In their first meeting Monday, Va'ezi and Schmitt underscored the need for close contacts between the two nations' parliamentarians as well as the formation of a parliamentary friendship board to upgrade mutual cooperation.

Industries Minister Receives Schmitt

LD3107212390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] In a meeting in Tehran this afternoon between Mr. Schmitt, political undersecretary of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, and Mr. Ne'matzadeh, our country's industries minister, ways of expanding bilateral cooperation in industrial fields were surveyed and the two exchanged views on these topics. Industrial cooperation between the two countries is to be within the framework of the agreements reached in their joint meeting held recently in Vienna.

Commentary on ICO Cairo Conference Agenda

NC3107211090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Station political commentary]

[Text] The conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] member states is due to open in Cairo today. Delegations from ICO countries had earlier held preliminary meetings and talks in Cairo in order to decide on an agenda for the conference.

The issues of Palestine, Kashmiri Muslims, the Indian-Pakistani conflict, the future of Muslim minorities in the world, and the Islamic world's economic problems take priority in the ICO foreign ministers' discussions.

Iran proposed that the agenda should include the issue of the Zionist plots against Jerusalem and Israel's destruction of al-Aqsa Mosque. Such a proposal draws the Muslims' attention to the danger facing one of the most sacred places and historic buildings of Islam. This danger requires the Muslims to take a firm and serious stand in the face of the Zionist entity, which seeks to destroy the great Islamic sites and to Judaize the city of Jerusalem as part of the hostile Zionist scheme. Iran also proposed that the agenda should include the issue of preserving the two holy shrines of Mecca and al-Madinah, the painful and regrettable incident in al-Mu:aysim Tunnel during this year's pilgrimage season, and the Saudi authorities' mismanagement and weakness during the pilgrimage. This topic is an important one and should be discussed. Official statistics on the al-Mu'aysim disaster provided by the Saudi Government indicate that over 1,400 pilgrims were killed. In this connection, Iran's consultative delegation proposed that Mecca and al-Madinah be placed under the supervision and administration of an international committee comprising Islamic countries.

As for the Palestinian issue, the ICO foreign ministers will discuss the repressive and inhumane policies of the Zionist entity in the occupied territories, the migration of Soviet Jews to Palestine, and the settlement of the immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The conferees will also discuss ways of providing full and practical support for the Palestinina Islamic intifadah in the occupied territories.

Iran takes the view that the conference should discuss these matters in detail and comprehensively and offer solutions to them in order to confront the usurpist Zionist entity's expansionist goals. We believe that such conferences will not be able to produce the required results unless they try to translate their resolutions into practical stands which are free from flattery and feebleness and do not bow to global infidel forces. This cannot be achieved unless the conferees act as practical representatives of the aspirations and hopes of more than 1 billion Muslims, who love freedom and hope that Islam will be the ruler in all their political, economic, cultural, and social affairs.

UN Expert Team Views Nuclear Issues

LD3107214790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] A UN expert team, in Tehran to exchange views with the officials of our country on the UN Assembly resolution declaring the Middle East a nuclear free zone, today met the deputy minister of foreign affairs in charge of international affairs. At the said meeting they viewed the dangerous consequences of nuclear weapons as well as ways of destroying them.

Commentary Views Naqqash Release, Hostage Issue

LD3107173390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, as you have heard in the news, on Friday [27 July]—after a long period of open and secret talks, and discussions between the officials of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic and French officials—Anis Naqqash, the pro-Iranian Lebanese terrorist,

and four of his accomplices were released from French prisons after 10 years. The freeing of this group was carried out on the orders of the French president himself, making use of the powers which the constitution of that country give him. Although the regime's diplomats in Paris have described the release of Anis Naqqash as merely a humanitarian gesture by the French Government, this event was more than anything else due to secret political and economic agreements that have been discussed and debated for years. With this action, the French president demonstrated that when the interests of his country are at stake, he will not fall behind any of his European colleagues, including Austria.

However, regardless of all the wheelings and dealings that have lead to the release of these terrorists, what should be studied now is the effect of this action on the infighting among the leaders of the Islamic Republic, on the one hand, and the fate of the Western hostages in Lebanon, on the other. [passage indistinct]

Va'ezi, the deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, who personally welcomed Anis Naqqash at the airport, has expressed his hope that the release of this group will have a positive effect on the Lebanese Muslims. This Foreign Ministry official also expressed his opinion that the release of Anis Naqqash can facilitate Iran's so-called humanitarian efforts.

Meanwhile, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, which is close to the radicals, has written: The humanitarian action of the French president can be effective only in improving that country's relations with Iran. That paper added: The continued detention of Anis Naqqash would not have helped the expansion of Iranian-French relations.

It is clear that the remarks of the English KAYHAN, limiting the consequences of the release of Anis Naqqash to an improvement in the relations between Paris and Tehran, is aimed primarily at neutralizing the measures being planned by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Foreign Ministry officials to the release Western hostages in Lebanon.

In this way, another round of infighting among various factions over the hostage issue has begun. The prediction of what the outcome of the latest round of the infighting will be would require greater study because the present conditions both inside and outside the country are quite different from before. One difference is that the position of the opponents of the regime's foreign policy has become weakened. During the past few days the leader-president faction have made great efforts to implement their desired foreign policy. The convening of the seminar of the ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad was a victory for those in charge of the government.

In Lebanon, too, the situation at the moment is such that the scope of the activity and influence of the radical forces affiliated to the Islamic Republic has become more restricted than ever before. Recent developments in Lebanon, especially the bloody clashes between Hizballah and Amal, have encouraged all the nationalist and progressive forces of that country to prevent the unbridled activities of the Hizballah groups. Moreover, there have been some demonstrations in Lebanon during which the expulsion of the revolutionary guards from that country has been demanded.

In a letter Velayati sent to Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, he called for the implementation of a (?new) agreement in order to put an end to the bloodshed. As this agreement was signed under the supervision of Syria and the regime's Foreign Ministry, it would be unlikely that its implementation would be in the interests of the Lebanese radicals associated with Mohtashemi.

A combination of these factors shows that the realization of the prediction by Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic, would be more possible. It is quite probable that the release of Anis Naqqash and four other terrorists, despite all the opposition and obstructionism, of the radicals, would lead to the release of a number of other Western hostages in Lebanon.

Minister Receives Outgoing Indian Envoy

LD3107180790 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—Outgoing Indian Ambassador Ramisa Chander Arora [name as received] reviewed with Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Hadi Nejad-Hoseyniyan Iran-India cooperation in the area of heavy industries here today.

The Iranian minister extended an invitation to India's industry minister to visit Tehran International Fair here in September-August.

Mexican Official Discusses Ties With Iran

NC0108063390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Mexican Deputy Minister for Energy, Mines, and Industry Escofet [title as heard], who is currently in Iran at the head of a delegation of experts from ministries and financial, economic, and industrial organizations, held talks with our deputy minister for Euro-American affairs in the Foreign Ministry.

During this meeting, Mr. Escofet gave our deputy minister a report on the outcome of his talks with various Iranian officials in the petroleum, industry, and nuclear energy fields. He expressed his happiness at the swift broadening and expanding ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mexico.

The deputy minister for Euro-American affairs repeatedly stressed the policy of South-South cooperation and the Islamic Republic of Iran's wish to expand ties with Third World countries. He expressed his appreciation for the expanding political cooperation between the two countries on various issues, as well as economic and commercial cooperation. He also conveyed his satisfaction at the news of the establishment of a Mexican

Embassy in Iran soon, and saying it is an effective step in the consolidation and expansion of ties between the two countries. Our deputy foreign minister also thanked the Mexican Government and people for their assistance of pharmaceuticals and donations to the earthquake victims and their message of sympathy.

*National Front Objects to Officer's Execution

90AS0193L London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 pp 1, 11

[Text] The National Front of Iran issued a statement protesting the execution of Colonel Shafi'i Khazaneh and the arrest of 17 freedom fighters. It warned that the Islamic regime is trying to force those arrested to make false and untrue confessions by using fearsome implements of torture. The statement said:

In these days while the earthquake in northern Iran is occupying the people, the Islamic Republic regime executed Shafi'i Khazaneh by firing squad in Evin prison, and in Tehran it arrested 'Ali Ardalan, head of the Society for the Defense of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation [Jam'iyat-e Defa' as Azadi va Hakemiyat-e Mellat-e Iran], along with seven others, Mohammad Tavassoli, Khosrow Mansurian, Hoseyn Shah-Hoseyni, Nezamoddin Movahed, Mohammad Maleki, 'Abbas Qa'em al-Sabba'i, and Rahim 'Abedi. With the arrest of the people above, there are now 18 signatories and affiliates of the Society for the Defense of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation in prison.

The National Front of Iran in Europe vigorously protests the shooting of Colonel Shafi'i, who remained on the Army Staff and continued to serve after the revolution because of his specialization and knowledge, as well as the arrest of 18 fighters for freedom and Iranian nationalism.

Elsewhere in the report, a warning was given:

This time also, as always, the Islamic regime is carrying out another criminal plot in a superficially legal form with possible show trials. It will seek to accuse those arrested and obtain confessions from them through fearsome implements of torture, and then on various accusations it will apply harsh and oppressive punishment and even the death penalty to the defendants. Events in recent months and reports in the last month or two from Tehran show that the danger anticipated has unfortunately materialized, and that the regime's oppression is spreading apace with the struggles of the people. Every day it commits new and terrifying crimes against patriotic fighters.

Even now the lives of 18 arrested people are seriously endangered. The officials of the Islamic regime, in spite of pretending to be satisfied with the so-called show of public contentment, are aware of the deep public dissatisfaction and anger with them, and they are more or less aware that the disturbances that take place here and there on the occasion of this or that incident are indications of a roaring and flaming volcano smouldering under the surface of society. The regime's despotic leaders know that if they do not harshly and immediately put down the disturbances this volcano produces in Iranian society, every second there is the "fear" that these great forces will be released and will turn their bullying apparatus upside down. The regime will not hesitate to commit the most heinous crimes to avoid its final collapse.

We vigorously protest the execution of Colonel Shafi'i and the inhumane treatment of those arrested from the Society for the Defense of Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation, and we call upon everyone to join with us in this protest.

We especially call upon all our compatriots outside the country to join with us and make the greatest effort to mobilize world public opinion and to defend the lives and rights of those arrested.

To protest the Islamic regime's oppressive measures and to defend the combatants who are in the Islamic regime's fearsome prisons is to defend the entire movement.

*Vote Count Reported in Majles Election

90AS0197D Tehran NAMEH-YE IRAN in Persian 12 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] Mr. Mehdi Karrubi was once again elected speaker of the Majles.

In the open session of the Majles yesterday, elections for the board of directors were held, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, with 155 votes out of a total of 229 votes, was elected speaker of the Majles for one year.

Another candidate for speaker of the Majles was 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who received 73 votes.

Also in the elections for the board of directors, of the total of 229 votes, Mr. Hashemian received 147 votes as first deputy speaker and Mr. Asadollah Bayat, with 124 votes, was elected second deputy speaker of the Majles. Other electoral candidates were Messrs. Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani and Hasan Rowhani, who received 91 and 88 votes, respectively. As the elections continued, Messrs. 'Abdolvahed Musavi-Lari, with 127 votes; Morteza Katirayi, with 124 votes; and Nurollah 'Abedi, with 119 votes, were elected as commissioners of the board of directors. Rasul Montajabnia, with 128 votes; Hasan Mozafarinezhad, with 118 votes; and Mohammad Razavi, with 109 votes, were elected as secretaries of the board of directors.

*Admiral on Plans for Navy, Modern Weapons

90AS0197C Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 12 Jun 90 p 3

[Interview with Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, commander of the Navy, by ETTELA'AT; date and place not specified]

[Text] Political service—The new programs were announced for equipping and expanding the resources of

the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to enable it to guard and protect the waters of the Persian Gulf.

In an interview with ETTELA'AT, Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani, the commander of the Navy, explained the plans and programs of this force in regard to purchasing advanced weapons and announced: Soon a complete submarine fleet purchased from foreign countries will be established at the Chabahar base. In the future, this base will be active with the resources purchased.

He said: The personnel of these units are now being trained in the source country, and in the near future, with the joining of this fleet to the capability of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the mission of the navy units of our country in the Persian Gulf and outside the Strait of Hormuz will be expanded.

The commander of the Navy added: With the changes in the missile systems of some of vessels, more advanced, modern, and more readily available missiles have also been purchased for installation on these units.

Also, with the help of some countries, the engines of some of the vessels will be improved, and our naval speed capability will be increased.

Stating that the coordinating program for strengthening the Navy and Air Force is underway, he added: In this connection, the shore-to-sea missile capability of this force will be strengthened significantly.

Emphasizing the support the three tracking bases of Bushehr, Bandar 'Abbas, and Chabahar gave to the missions of the Navy during the war, as they do now, he pointed out: Also, in order to strengthen the air force capability of our country in the Persian Gulf, simultaneous with equipping the Navy with submarines, for the first time this force will be equipped with new airplanes.

Concerning the results of the "Sahand" maneuvers, Admiral Shamkhani said: In the "Sahand" maneuvers, we succeeded in discovering our internal problems in various tactical and educational areas and in terms of coordination and our weak points in regard to coordinating the operations of the Navy and the Guard Corps. I believe that so far in the history of the Navy there has never been such scrutiny, care, and follow-up as a result of direct presence in maneuvers. Of course, our main task began after the maneuvers, because since the discovery of the problems, we are resolving them so that we will not face such problems in subsequent maneuvers. Pointing out the successful use of an Iranian-made submarine in the "Sahand" maneuvers, he said: For the first time, a tactical submarine which has good operational capability and was jointly built by the defense industries and the Navy in the country has been tested. With the deployment of this unit, our naval superiority over the whole of the Persian Gulf and decisive and permanent control of the Strait of Hormuz will increase.

In response to our reporter concerning the delivery of the Italian ships to Iraq and the possibility of their entry into the region, the commander of the Navy said: If these ships attempt to enter the region during a "neither war nor peace" situation, because it would be a violation of the cease-fire and contrary to international law, we shall not give them permission to enter.

He added: The international maritime laws also prohibit Iraq from engaging in this action and give us the right to employ our preventive capability. If Iraq wants to send its vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, we naturally will consider it our right to impose the "neither war nor peace" conditions.

In regard to the exchange of letters between the officials of Iran and Iraq, Admiral Shamkhani said: These letters are still vague and at a level of generalities. Of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran has continually supported and strengthened Resolution 598, which will bring permanent peace. Within this framework we have no problems. It is Iraq that has put its strategy on deviation and isolating the Resolution.

Admiral Shamkhani emphasized the reconstruction of the Navy bases in Abadan and Khorramshahr and said: All the personnel of the Navy shall be actively involved in the reconstruction movement.

Pointing out that until the Iranian work force develops a work ethic, we shall never be able to do anything with slogans and speech making, he emphasized:

We must employ the work force in Iran through encouragement and incentives, and ultimately force and pressure in order to have a positive future. Unfortunately, in our society the spirit of defending the work force is combined with the spirit of comfort [as published]. These two issues can be combined, but only in a form that can bring about economic prosperity for the country.

He added: After a war, in many countries the level of work changes from eight to 16 hours a day. We are also in post-war conditions and in a period of reconstruction, and naturally we must revitalize the work force in the country.

In conclusion, emphasizing the issue of training in the Navy in the three areas of science, discipline, and belief, he pointed out: In forming the Navy, priority is given to training, and the statements of the grand leader indicate the trend of activities in the Nowshahr naval science college. We are determined to bring into the Navy a graduate force with high levels of knowledge and strong discipline and belief at every level of training.

*First Issue of BAYAN Published 12 Jul

90AS0197B Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 12 Jun 90 p 14

[Text] The first issue of BAYAN, which contains various articles on political, social, cultural, and economic issues, was published.

In this issue of BAYAN, articles were published on the imam, pure Islam and American Islam, the consequences of direct negotiations, the assassination of Kazem Rajavi, the letter of the liberals, Islamic societies, students, inflation and the foreign currency policies of the government, reflections on the letter of Saddam, the hajj negotiations, the Hague and Iran-U.S. negotiations.

The editorial of the first issue of BAYAN is by the owner and manager of the journal, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, which states: BAYAN can be a dignified, frank, national organization moving in line with the Islamic revolution and its values as well as the thoughts and ideas of the late leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

This issue is published in 64 pages by KEYHAN.

*Bill Proposed To Punish Saboteurs of Economy

90AS0197A Tehran NAMEH-YE IRAN in Persian 27 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] **Persons who, in this plan, will be identified as the belligerent and corrupt of the earth:**

- **Disruption of the monetary system by smuggling wealth abroad**
- **Disruption of the tax system and government rights and tariffs**
- **Disruption of the distribution of public needs through hoarding and price hiking**

The legislative proposal to punish saboteurs of the national economic system which has been prepared by the representatives of the Majles will soon be discussed in the Majles.

This legislative proposal is signed by 87 representatives, including Mr. Mehdi Karrubi (the speaker of the Majles).

The "urgency one" aspect of this proposal was ratified some time ago, and it is said that it will be offered for examination in the Majles in a few days.

The text of this legislative proposal is as follows:

Article 1: When a person or persons commit the following acts in order to harm the economic system of the country or with the knowledge of the effects of their actions, they shall be considered the belligerent and corrupt of the earth and shall be punished in accordance with the article of the general penal law.

A. Disruption of the monetary and foreign currency system and smuggling major wealth abroad.

B. Disruption in the tax system and government rights and tariffs.

C. Disruption in the distribution of public needs, such as by hoarding and price hiking or purchasing agricultural products or other public needs with the intent of creating a monopoly in selling them.

D. Disruption in the production system of the country.

E. Any sabotaging economic activity which will cause economic instability and disrupt the people in the Islamic regime or disrupt government programs or result in the domination of foreigners in the market and adversely affect the economic fate of Muslims.

Note 1: If the above-mentioned activities are carried out by legal persons, the general manager or any other effective individual or individuals shall be subject to punishment in this law.

Note 2: If the activities mentioned are not judged to be at the level of belligerency and corruption of the earth, the offenders shall be given sentences of two-10 years imprisonment and fines of 10 times the capital used in regard to the offense. In case of belligerency and corruption, the involved property shall be confiscated by the government.

Note 3: If the government officials and agents or revolutionary organizations and institutions are involved directly or in conspiracy in the above-mentioned offenses, in addition to the above-mentioned punishments, they shall be permanently dismissed from government employment.

*Pakistani, Cuban Doctors Remain in Quake Area

90AS0193K London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 p 8

[Text] The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reported that a group of Pakistani and Cuban doctors continue to treat the ill and injured. These two groups continue to treat the earthquake-stricken sick with Iranian medical assistance.

Habibi, an aide to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, announcing the above, claimed that disinfection in the earthquake areas has been done, especially in the Rudbar area, and there is no reason for concern.

*Second Crash of President's Helicopter Reported

90AS0193J London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 p 8

[Text] After reports were published on the explosion of a helicopter that was to have taken Hashemi-Rafsanjani back to Tehran from the earthquake area, other reports have been published about the explosion of another helicopter that is to be used during Hashemi-Rafsanjani's five-day trip to Khorasan.

It is being said in Tehran that as the result of the explosion of this helicopter in Khorasan, Air Force pilots Colonel Abtahi, Captain Rostami, and Lieutenant Ahangarani were killed. The "Tehran Guard Army" offered condolences for the tragic death of these officers in a short sentence. The Islamic Republic regime has given no official report to the people on the reason for the martyrdom of these officers.

On the other hand General Ansari, commander of the Air Force of Iran, announced that the pilot, and co-pilot Lieutenant Mirghaffur-Musavi, who crashed in the village of Klisham in the earthquake area, underwent surgery.

The accident happened when the helicopter was 100 meters above ground and caught fire and crashed. Hojjat ol-Eslam Eftekhari, Majles Fuman deputy, who was aboard that helicopter, was killed when it crashed. Three members of the helicopter crew, Warrant Officer Qasem

Ne'matpur, Warrant Officer Hoseyn Akbari, and Warrant Officer Sajedi, also suffered broken arms and legs and other injuries.

General Ansari gave no explanation why the helicopter caught fire in flight, and he did not say whether it was the result of a bomb or a technical flaw.

We note that last week French newspapers reported that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's aircraft exploded in flight, but indications show that the accidents involved Air Force helicopters.

*Drought Threatens Rice Fields, Olive Orchards

90AS0193I London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Agricultural experts visiting the earthquake areas report that if the rice fields in this area are not watered in the next week, the crops in these fields will be lost. These experts also noted the necessity to water immediately the Rudbar olive orchards and said that based on the cycle of harvests, this year's olive crop will be more fruitful than last year's, and if not watered immediately in the next few days the green olives will dry and fall off the trees.

*ROK To Rebuild Damaged Khark Reservoirs

90AS0193H London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] A South Korean company has taken on the contract to rebuild the damaged oil reservoirs of Khark Island. It will take 24 months to implement this contract, and engineers of the Ssangyong contracting company of South Korea will replace, repair, and rebuild the great oil reservoirs of this island. The Koreans are to begin rebuilding the Khark Island reservoirs as soon as the credit accounts are opened by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic.

Recently the newspaper KEYHAN of Tehran announced that the contract to rebuild Iran's largest oil terminal has been assigned to a French company. Several days after publishing the above report quoting an informed official from the Ministry of Petroleum, this newspaper wrote: To rebuild the East Khark Island loading terminal (T) and the Azarpad loading terminal, including all equipment for metering and loading ship fuel and fire fighting, a contract was signed with two French and Italian contractors named ATPM [expansion unknown] and Migubari. This contract was signed based on restoring and employing the usable parts of the dock to the limit of the nation's domestic resources, to be done by the management of the southern oil-rich areas.

Elsewhere in its report, KEYHAN of Tehran writes: On 11 May of this year they reached the final agreement and signed the contract.

The work of carrying out this contract, which was suspended for 27 months, will begin after reopening credit at the Central Bank.

*Trade Balance With FRG Discussed

90AS0193G London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] Last year the Islamic Republic became the Federal Republic of Germany's largest market for export products among the oil-rich Persian Gulf nations, after Saudi Arabia and Iraq, by exporting goods and products valued at $2.12 billion. In 1989 this country sold $2.12 billion in goods to the Islamic Republic in exchange for purchases of goods and substances (chiefly crude oil) valued at $1.18 billion. A comparison of the two figures above shows that balance of trade between the FRG and the Islamic Republic tips heavily to the advantage of the former. Among Middle Eastern nations, only Turkey has a favorable trade balance with West Germany. Last year Turkey bought $4.11 billion in traditional and industrial goods from the FRG, and sold goods to it valued at more than $4.17 billion. Last year the United Arab Emirates also exported considerable amounts of crude oil to West Germany, and bought about three times that amount in goods.

Based on statistics published by commercial sources in the Federal Republic, last year this country exported about $24.2 billion in various goods and substances to the nations of the Middle East. On the other hand in the same year West Germany imported only about $14.3 billion in goods from these nations, most of which was crude oil.

Analysis of commerce statistics from the Federal Republic for last year shows that Turkey is now this country's largest trade partner among the nations of the Third World. On the other hand last year Ankara succeeded in making the Federal Republic its largest market for food products and especially textiles.

Last year, among the oil-producing nations of the Persian Gulf, Iraq was the largest seller of oil to the Federal Republic. With oil sales to Bonn valued at $2.8 billion, this country exported slightly more than twice the amount of crude oil to West Germany than the Islamic Republic. Based on West Germany's foreign trade statistics, last year this country increased its exports to Iraq somewhat over 1988. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic decreased its imports from West Germany by 13 percent.

*French Company To Build Mashhad Metro System

90AS0193F London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] The French company that is building the Tehran metro intends to build an extensive underground railroad network in the city of Mashhad if it receives approval from officials of the Islamic Republic. The news of the likely construction of the Mashhad metro was given to reporters recently after a trip by the French ambassador to this city. Christian Graeff, the French ambassador to the Islamic Republic, after returning from several days in Mashhad, told reporters that his country would like to help build an underground railroad, industrial centers, pharmaceutical factories, and to carry out the project to build the airport in Khorasan Province.

Concerning the likelihood of French involvement in the construction of the Mashhad metro, the weekly journal MEED [MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC DIGEST] of London wrote: Consulting engineers of the large French metro construction company Sofretu announced that to date they have not been contacted by Islamic Republic officials about building an underground railroad in the city of Mashhad.

This publication added: The French Sofretu company is now one of the world's largest metro construction companies. In the mid-1970's it signed a large contract to build the Tehran metro. Construction on the Tehran metro, which was suspended for several years because of the Islamic revolution, was resumed about four years ago, and it is expected that within a year part of this extensive underground rail network will be operational.

*Damage in Gilan Estimated at 500 Billion Rials

90AS0193E London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 p 4

[Text] While the devastating earthquake in northern Iran caused at least $25 billion in damages, in the nation's budget for the current year only 27 billion rials (about $350 million) has been provided to restore losses from unexpected events. Economic experts believe that it will not be easy to restore the earthquake losses, and if the Islamic Republic wants to repair the damage done by this natural disaster, it must establish a budget as quickly as possible to provide the funds needed for reconstruction.

According to a report from Tehran, Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, assistant to the president of the Islamic Republic and supervisor of the Plan and Budget Organization, who had come to Gilan to inspect earthquake damage, estimated the approximate damage in this province at about 500 billion rials ($80 billion). This official told correspondents that the programs to rebuild the areas stricken by the earthquake will have no affect on achieving the goals of the first Five-Year Plan. Without saying where or how the heavy costs for rebuilding the earthquake-stricken areas would be met, Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani told news correspondents: In the nation's credits for the current year 27 billion rials have been set aside to restore losses from unexpected events, but because of the vast dimensions of this tragic disaster, a special credit line will be provided to rebuild the nation's earthquake-stricken areas in the north and the northwest.

An expert on Middle East economic affairs announced that in the future the Islamic Republic will be obliged to obtain financial resources in various ways to rebuild even part of the earthquake damage, as well as help in carrying out the projects in the Five-Year Plan. This expert added: It is illogical to count on foreign gifts and aid to meet the financial needs for programs to rebuild the earthquake-damaged areas, because all the figures for international aid will not amount to even one percent of the sum needed to recover from the losses.

Early last week the English INDEPENDENT TELEVISION NEWS NETWORK estimated a maximum figure of $30 million for all the cash assistance sent to the Islamic Republic for earthquake victims.

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakh, Majles deputy from Rasht, discussed the pressing financial requirements to recover from earthquake losses in Gilan Province. He said: Five billion tomans in financial losses cannot be recovered through the sending of emergency gifts. He added: Although the reaction from foreign countries in sending aid to the earthquake-stricken areas is praiseworthy, it would be most naive to think that that assistance and this amount of domestic assistance could solve the problems of the people of Gilan.

Elsewhere in his talk, the Rasht deputy discussed statistics on damages to various parts of Gilan Province. He said: According to statists released to date, 56 villages and 759 residential units were 50 to 100 percent destroyed in Astaneh Ashrafiyeh, along with 370 villages and 6,132 housing units in Rudsar, 250 villages and 5,141 residential units in Lahijan, 150 villages and 884 residential units in Talesh, 110 villages and residential units in Fuman, 115 villages and 2,500 residential units in Suwme'ehsara, and 183 villages and 6,777 residential units in Rasht.

The deputy announced that in Rudbar 37,000 residential units were destroyed. He said: Most of the apartments in Rasht, which are chiefly worker apartments, were so damaged that they have been declared uninhabitable.

*Disturbances Continue in Baluchestan

90AS0193D London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] According to a report from Baluchestan, 23 revolutionary guards were killed in the vicinity of Iranshahr in several bloody clashes between armed Baluchi forces and the revolutionary guards on Thursday and Friday [5 and 6 July] last week.

Forces of the Islamic Republic, who had gone to the Iranshahr area to destroy Baluch revolutionary guard forces, were attacked by armed Baluchi men and were forced to retreat after 23 of them were killed. In these clashes a large number of revolutionary guards and members of the mobilization were wounded.

This report states that following these clashes, the strategic and mountainous area of Ahuran has become very unstable. Even now the revolutionary guard forces are pursuing the armed Baluchi, in cooperation with units from the other armed forces, and using Air Force helicopters.

Pakistan

Minister Says Islamic Law Bill Unacceptable

BK2707123290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The federal minister for women development, Begum Rehana Sarwar, has stressed the need to make the Shariat [Islamic law] Bill acceptable to all. Talking to PPI [PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL] in Islamabad today, she

said it is not acceptable as it presents (?affront) to the people belonging to different schools of thought.

11 Parties To Oppose Bhutto

BK3007134090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 30 (AFP)—Eleven political and religious parties have formed a united front to force the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to accept shariah, or Islamic law, in Pakistan, party sources said Monday [30 July]. The parties, which met Sunday [29 July] in Lahore, selected fundamentalist opposition deputy Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi to head the movement and Senator Sami ul Haq, sponsor of the shariah bill, as its secretary general, the sources said. The bill, adopted by the opposition-dominated Senate in May, is to be debated early next month in the National Assembly, the lower house, where Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has a majority.

Calling for the "Islamization" of Pakistan's judicial, economic and education system, the bill has become a major issue in the country where 96 percent of the 110 million people are Moslems. The ruling PPP fears that the bill sponsored by representatives of the majority Sunni Moslem community could antagonize the minority sects, especially the Shi'ites. The government has also warned that the bill could create a "legislative chaos" for the government and administration while stripping the parliament of its powers.

But to avoid outright rejection of the sharia bill—which could be politically costly—the PPP wants to amend the controversial clauses, according to party sources.

The meeting in Lahore, capital of the opposition-dominated Punjab, set up two committees comprising MPs and religious leaders to coordinate with different sectors of society and to lobby MPs, the party sources said.

A lawyers' group in Lahore has served a legal notice on the National Assembly speaker to prevent him from opening a debate on the bill. Abdul Basit, president of the Lawyers' Front for the Defence of the Constitution, has contended that the house was not empowered to consider the bill as it amounts to amending the constitution. The front has warned that the speaker would be responsible for the full cost of litigation if he allowed tabling of the shariah bill.

A general meeting of the Lahore High Court Bar Association scheduled Sunday to discuss the shariah bill was interrupted when some 200 supporters of the bill stormed the hall, newspapers reported. The protestors had come to the court to witness proceedings on a blasphemy suit filed against Ms. Bhutto by fundamentalist leaders after she reportedly said that applying strict Islamic punishments—such as amputation of a limb for theft—might not be proper. A number of lawyers who supported the bill joined the protestors, leading to an exchange of words and a minor clash between rival lawyers, the reports said. The meeting was suspended by the pro-PPP bar association President Raja Mehmood Akhtar, but supporters of the bill later adopted a resolution condemning his move as "un-Islamic" and rejected a resolution against the bill passed earlier by the bar association.

British Delegation To Assess Kashmir Issue

BK3107013290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] A three-member British parliamentary delegation headed by Sir John Wheeler arrived in Islamabad today to assess the current situation in Kashmir. On arrival, the leader of the delegation said the British Government strongly supports Kashmiri people's right to decided their future in accordance with the UN resolution envisaging plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir state. He said the British people share concern over the worsening situation in Indian-held Kashmir and persecution of Kashmiri people by Indian forces. Sir John Wheeler hoped that the Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India would be resolved peacefully through dialogue.

Meets Ishaq Khan

BK3107125990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that Kashmir is the best case to test the commitment of the civilized world to the principles of freedom and justice and its resolve to live by the UN Charter. He said this while talking to a three-member delegation of the British parliament which called on him in Islamabad today. The president said that the world has a moral duty to take serious note of massive violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir. It should arouse public opinion against atrocities being committed on the Kashmiri people who are demanding the rights promised to them at the highest international forum. The president exposed the nature of the excuses being resorted to by India to deny the people of Kashmir their right to self-determination. He said a neutral analysis of the problem and a realistic approach are needed to resolve the issue which has strained Pakistan-India relations from the very beginning. The president stressed that a real and durable peace cannot be established until a permanent solution of the core issue is sought. The president categorically announced that Pakistan will continue its efforts for a peaceful political settlement of the dispute.

Sir John Wheeler, leader of the British delegation, assured the president that they have no doubt that Pakistan wants a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue and it is not fomenting hostilities. He said that the solution of the Kashmir issue lies in granting the Kashmiri people their democratic right to self-determination.

Hosted by House Speaker

BK3107164990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Excerpts] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan says Kashmir is acid test to test commitment of the civilized world to the principles of freedom and justice and its resolve to

live by the UN Charter. He was talking to a three-member delegation of British parliament which called on him in Islamabad today. [passage omitted]

The leader of the delegation, Sir John Wheeler, assured the president that he and his colleagues had no doubt that Pakistan wanted a solution of the Kashmir issue through peaceful means and was not fomenting hostilities.

Speaking at a luncheon given by the speaker of National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid, in Islamabad today, Sir John Wheeler said the population in the held Kashmir has the inherent right to decide their own future, as it has been envisaged in the 1947 partition plan of the subcontinent. He said the struggle that the Kashmiris have now started is not inspired by Pakistan, but it is the result of their long deprivation of their right of self-determination. They have been inspired by the winds of freedom now blowing across the world and no power can suppress their desire of freedom for long.

Sir John Wheeler said during their talks with the Pakistani leaders and officials, they were convinced that the government and the people of Pakistan do not want a war with India. Similarly, they hoped that India will not resort to war against Pakistan and the issue would be resolved through negotiations to the satisfaction of the people of Kashmir.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Malik Mairaj Khalid said Pakistan is taking steps to project the Kashmir issue in international forums in its true perspective.

Wali Khan Urges Political Solution in Kashmir

BK3107095890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] The president of the Awami National Party, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, has said that Pakistan is bound by the Simla Agreement since it had been ratified by parliament. He said that the Benazir government has no right to demand a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Khan was addressing the members of the District Bar Association in Peshawar. He urged both the countries to sit together and solve the issue politically.

Commercials With Indian Models, Music Banned

BK3107111290 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0900 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] State-owned Pakistan Television Corporation has banned all commercial advertisements showing Indian models. A circular issued by television authorities to advertising agencies has also banned the use of sound tracks and strains of music from Indian productions. Commercials produced and shot in India for Pakistani products will also not be allowed for telecast. This move has been criticized by leading Pakistani advertising agencies.

Pakistan To Assist USSR in Islamic Teachings

Agreement Signed

BK2907125390 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Pakistan is to provide assistance to the Soviet Union for familiarizing Muslims of Central Asia with the teachings of Islam. A memorandum to this effect was signed by the chairman of USSR Muslim Religious Board for Central Asia and Kazakhstan, Mufti Muhammad Sadyk Mamayusupov, and the federal minister for religious affairs, Khan Bahadur Khan, in Islamabad today.

Under it Pakistan will provide copies of holy Koran, basic Islamic literature, and video programs on arkan-i-Islam [tenets of Islam].

Bhutto Announces Grant

BK2907125990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has announced the grant of 10 million rupees for the welfare of Muslims and propagation of Islamic teachings in Central Asia and Kazakhstan in the Soviet Union. She announced the grant during a meeting with the Soviet Muslim delegation led by the chairman of the Muslim Religious Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, Mufti Muhammad Sadyk, when he called on her in Islamabad today.

Bhutto Speaks of 'Special Ties'

BK3007020790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has announced the grant of 10 million rupees for propagation of Islamic teachings, construction of mosques, and publication of religious literature in the Muslim republics of the Soviet Union. She announced the grant during a meeting with the Soviet Muslim delegation led by the chairman of the Muslim Religious Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, Mufti Muhammad Sadyk, when he called on her in Islamabad today.

The prime minister said that the people of Pakistan greatly respect their Muslim brethren in the Soviet republics and Pakistan attaches special significance to its relations with the Soviet Union because Pakistan has special historic ties with Central Asia. The prime minister appreciated President Gorbachev's policies in connection with allowing the Muslims of the Central Asia to practice their religion freely. Mufti Muhammad Sadyk said that he is very deeply touched by the grant which clearly demonstrates the Pakistani people's sincerity and friendship. He proposed that Pakistan should establish air link with Tashkent. The prime minister welcomed the proposal and hoped that the Soviet Government would also welcome it. Mufti Muhammad Sadyk also proposed

that Pakistan set up a consul general office in Tashkent. The prime minister said Pakistan would be happy to consider this proposal.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said she understood that some Soviet Muslims are prisoners of war in the hands of the mujahidin. She assured the delegation that it is a humanitarian issue and the Pakistan Government would use its influence in this connection and urge the Afghan Interim Government for help in getting them released.

The prime minister said that Pakistan desires a political solution to the Afghan problem and urges the Soviet Union to join Pakistan in searching for a solution that provides for establishing a broad-based government in Afghanistan which is elected by its own people.

Afghan Refugees Begin Repatriation Drive 28 Jul

BK2807162690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their homes began today. On the first day today, 19 families returned home from Landi Kotal, Parachinar, and Khar of Bajaur agency in NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]. So far, about 35 families have gone back from Balochistan. Of these, 30 families are from Chaman and five from Pishin.

The arrangements for the return of the refugees were made with the cooperation of the UN organizations, especially the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The Government of Pakistan will lend a helping hand in the task of the safe return of Afghan refugees.

Minister Says Return 'Voluntary'

BK2907174690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The minister of state for states and the frontier region, Malik Warid Khan Afridi, has said that Pakistan is against forcible repatriation of the Afghan refugees. In an interview in Islamabad, he said the present process of refugee repatriation is purely on a voluntary basis. He said it was observed during the last few months that a number of Afghan families, mainly from Balochistan, were returning to Afghanistan. He said that to facilitate those returning voluntarily, the Pakistan Government and the UN agreed on a pilot project for three months.

The minister of state said that ever since the Afghan refugees started coming here, Pakistan has been extending all possible assistance to them and the government will continue to help those refugees who cannot return to their homes. He said the Pakistani people have sacrificed much during the past many years to support the just cause of the Afghanistan refugees, and the government will not take any step that casts a shadow on these sacrifices.

State Production Minister Departs for Turkey

BK3007144190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Raja Shahid Zafar, the minister of state for production, left Islamabad for Istanbul today on a four-day official visit to Turkey. During his tour he will hold discussions with Turkish officials and visit various industrial projects.

Azad Kashmir President Ill; Condition Improves

BK3007155190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] There has been considerable improvement in the condition of Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, who is undergoing treatment for a heart ailment in the Military Hospital, Rawalpindi. The hospital authorities have said he is expected to be discharged from the hospital in a day or two.

Clashes in Jhang Injure 30; Curfew Imposed

BK3007033290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] More than 30 people, including 13 policemen, have been injured following an outbreak of group clashes yesterday in the city of Jhang in the Punjab Province [of Pakistan]. The violence occurred when hand grenades were thrown on a religious procession. Curfew has been imposed in the city. Our Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, reports that Jhang has been the scene of frequent Shiite-Sunnite riots since February this year following the assassination of Maulana Jhangvi, whose killers are still untraced. The Army is being deployed in selected districts of the Punjab Province to prevent deterioration of law and order during the forthcoming Muharram [on 2 August].

Lahore Bomb Blast Kills One, Injures 12

BK2807155290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] There was bomb blast on a private bus in Nizamabad Chowk-Ghaziabad in Lahore Sadar today. According to police sources, one boy was killed and 12 persons were injured. The injured have been admitted to hospital.

Sri Lanka

ENDLF Statement Condemns LTTE 'Genocide'

BK3007120990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1105 GMT 30 Jul 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—The rights of the Tamil-speaking people cannot be won by killing innocent Sinhala civilians. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is committing genocide. The Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front [ENDLF] vehemently condemns this, states a press release issued

by the ENDLF. It further states that even during the period of the liberation struggle of the Tamils, the LTTE had committed similar acts against the innocent civilian population. The Kent Farm and Dollar Farm massacres are some of the many incidents which provide significantly clear evidence of the brutality committed by the LTTE. The Tamil people are being forcibly taken along the path of destruction by the LTTE. The Tamil people in the north and east are suffering today because of the misguided politics of the LTTE. We demand the LTTE stop killing civilians immediately, the ENDLF states.

Forces Further Consolidate Positions in Northeast

BK3107122690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Security forces further consolidated their positions in the Northern and Eastern Provinces during the last 24 hours ending 1200 yesterday. They conducted route-clearing and flushing-out operations. A communique issued by the Information Department said in these operations no casualties were reported, except in Mullaitivu where the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists fired mortars and machine guns into the Army camp. One soldier received minor injuries.

In the Eastern Province, in the area of Alayadi Vempu, a foot patrol of the Special Task Force encountered a small group of LTTE terrorists. In this encounter, one LTTE terrorist was killed and his weapon was recovered. The security forces' camp at Vakaneri has been relocated at the AGA's [Assistant Government Agent's] office, Valachchenai, and the (Khalkuda) rest house.

LTTE Rebels Abduct, Kill 14 Muslims

BK3107125190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 31 (AFP)—Tamil rebels campaigning for a separate state in northeastern Sri Lanka abducted and killed 14 Moslems accused of siding with troops, a spokesman for a Moslem party said Tuesday.

A military spokesman meanwhile said two policemen died and four guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were killed in renewed violence in the Northern Province.

LTTE guerrillas abducted 17 Moslems in eastern Akkaraipattu in the Ampara district late Monday [30 July] and killed 14 of them, Spokesman Waffa Farook of the Sri Lanka Moslem Congress (SLMC) said. The remaining three escaped from LTTE custody, he said.

The military spokesman confirmed the incident, but could not give details of casualties.

The LTTE, which on June 11 renewed its campaign for an independent Tamil homeland called Eelam in the predominantly Tamil northeast, has accused Moslems in the region of collaborating with government troops searching for the Tigers.

Mr. Farook said the Moslems who were taken to an undisclosed place, had their hands tied with strips of cloth torn from their shirts, were made to lie down and then were shot by the rebels. He said LTTE cadres had seized some of the Moslems when they were returning home at night from nearby paddy fields, and others had been abducted from the Akkaraipattu market area.

This is the second attack in three days on Moslems, who are also a minority group like the Tamils. Moslems live in large numbers alongside the Tamils in the Eastern Province.

On Saturday [28 July], a group of LTTE guerrillas attacked a mosque in neighbouring Sammanthurai, killing five Moslems.

The latest attack came as President Ranasinghe Premadasa assured SLMC leader Mohammad Ashraff that Colombo would draw up a security plan to protect them.

"The president was very responsive to our appeals and promised early measures aimed at mounting a security plan for the harassed Moslems," THE ISLAND newspaper quoted Mr. Ashraff as saying.

"The LTTE was killing, plundering and chasing out the Moslems as they did not want the Moslems to assert their identity in the region," Mr. Ashraff said.

The military spokesman also said two policemen after [as received] an explosion triggered by a rebel mortar rocked the main army garrison at Jaffna Fort on Monday. Three other policemen were injured in the blast, he added. No further details of the blast was available.

Security forces shot dead four guerrillas Monday after troops helping to unload cargo from a small ship in northern Balaly came under LTTE fire, the spokesman said.

Two soldiers were also wounded due to a grenade explosion, as the troops backed by naval gun boats "withdrew successfully," he said without elaborating.

Military officials here said an army officer was injured when he stepped on a presure mine during operations in the north, while two more soldiers were wounded when a locally made mine went off in eastern Trincomalee.

Rebels continued to direct bullets and mortar into Jaffna Fort's army camps, Kankesanthurai and Mullaitivu, injuring one soldier, officials said.

Meanwhile, THE SUN newspaper said 618,000 people have been made refugees since the violence broke out between government troops and guerrillas. The report said that in addition to the refugees in Sri Lanka, there were about 40,000 refugees in southern India. New Delhi has repeatedly expressed concern over the flow of Sri Lanka refugees to its southern state of Tamil Nadu and has urged Colombo to set up camps within the island to house the displaced people.

According to unofficial and official sources, nearly 2,300 people including many civilians have died following the outbreak of fighting since June 11 in the Indian Ocean island's sprawling northeast.